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VOLUME LXV NUMBER 19728 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1997 • ELUL 5757 • 14 SHEVAT AMAL 5758 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.85)

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up 0.4%**

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reveal a few
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IDF bracing for clashes with PA fighters

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF is bracing for possible skirmishes with Palestinian Authority fighters if there is further deterioration in the political situation. Operational plans are being readied, as is special training for regular and reserve units, including the Border Police, military sources said yesterday.

The sources warned of an outbreak of guerrilla warfare and an escalation in the use of weapons in the territories if the current stalemate in the peace process continues and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians increases. The present situation has led the PA to legitimize terrorist activities, the sources said, a fact

which officials say must lead to violent confrontations between the two sides. Military officials claim the Palestinians have also beefed up their security forces and are maintaining a state of alert, fearing that Israeli security forces may enter areas under Palestinian control. In recent public statements, PA

Chairman Yasser Arafat has warned his people of a "prolonged struggle" against Israel. The Palestinians believe that Israel's government is not interested in resuming the peace process and is doing everything possible to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state. This kind of thinking can only lead to a renewal of low-key violence and

rioting that may prevail for a long period of time, but will not lead to large-scale military confrontation, a source said. Since the suicide bombing in the capital's Rehov Ben-Yehuda mall on September 4, security forces have arrested 250 Palestinians, who they say are not directly connected to the attack but are suspected of

belonging to terrorist organizations. Meanwhile, the IDF has lifted the internal closure imposed on the West Bank that prevented Palestinians from traveling among towns under their control. However, the general closure preventing Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza from enter-

ing Israel is still in effect. The security situation will not be made easier by the opening of the academic year in the territories, when 36,000 Palestinian students will attend universities and colleges. Military sources said escorts for Jewish schoolchildren in the territories will be beefed up as a result.

**Army: Syria
preparing
for partial
Golan retake**

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Syria has stepped up its preparations for a surprise attack on Israel, even though it would prefer a political settlement that would get it the Golan Heights, a senior intelligence officer told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday. Damascus has plans to try to recapture part of the heights, he said, and to use this to force Israel's hands in negotiations. The Syrian interest in this option is growing, he said.

The Syrians view the US as the most effective broker of a peace solution, the officer said. But they will not agree to renew the talks with Israel until they have a promise Israel will return to the pre-June 1967 borders. Syria continues to enjoy a promise of Iranian support if attacked, the officer said. But Iran, he said, is no less fanatical under the new regime and still poses the greatest threat to the region.

The Russians are "massively" involved in producing non-conventional warheads for Iran, and US intervention has failed to stop them. "We could see a prototype ready within a year or a year-and-a-half - ahead of earlier predictions," he said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who also briefed the committee, said he is in favor of renewing talks with Damascus. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the Syrian capital had "yielded partial results," he said. "At present it is an indirect process," Mordechai said, adding he would like to see direct talks.

"It is not by coincidence that Albright went to Lebanon [yesterday]," Mordechai continued. The recent IDF fatalities in Lebanon were a result of "very unfortunate coincidences" rather than a change in Hizbullah tactics, he said. Nevertheless, it could not be ruled out that these incidents would encourage Hizbullah to lay more mines.

See SYRIA, Page 2

PM raps Ras al-Amud move

By ELLI WOHLGELERHINTER
and BAT SHEVA TSUR

Despite an outright condemnation of their action by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, it appears there is little the government can legally do to evict those Jewish families who have moved into the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras al-Amud. "We believe that what is happening right now in Ras al-Amud is not good for the State of Israel," Netanyahu said yesterday. "We understand there is such a thing as property rights, and we respect it. But nevertheless, we think on sensitive issues we should be the ones who are making the decisions, and not maneuvered into them."

**PA condemns Ras al-Amud
'provocation,' Page 2**

"And we will do what we think is right. We will act within the law, in whatever the law allows us, to steer events according to our view on how Jerusalem should be developed."

But after a day of consultation with legal and security advisers, it appears that though the government may be able to block the construction of any new building - by invoking national security or the preservation of public order - there seems to be little it can do to prevent the renting of the property to Jewish tenants.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said the government's hands were tied by legal restraints, and nothing could have been done to stop the settlers from moving in. "I knew about their attempt to enter," he told Channel 1. "We examined it from a legal aspect, if they own the house, if there was a possibility to stop it... and the decision was that this is a process that cannot be stopped."

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein told reporters that it is in the hands of the police and other security forces to decide



Irving Moskowitz (AP)

whether the families can remain. "The police and other security forces will examine the evidence and decide whether it is justified," he said. "Legal opinions are given only after that."

Rubinstein said that the interior minister has the authority - just as the district planning committee has - to decide on the future of the plan, on grounds of public safety, "but only after holding a hearing. We're waiting for all the facts now, and then a decision will be made, if necessary."

Police stepped up security in the neighborhood, amid fears of another outbreak of violence. After a quiet afternoon, Palestinians threw stones at police and security forces surrounding the controversial building.

A senior government official noted that Netanyahu was particularly displeased with the timing of the move, coming just two days after US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had left the country. Nevertheless, there seems little the government can do.

"We are limited by private property rights," Netanyahu told a visiting Israeli Bonds delegation. "Once people enter an existing home, the government - under the advice we've been given - apparently cannot interfere."

There was much reaction to the move from both sides of the political aisle, with many calling it a "dangerous provocation" that could only lead to more violence. "Jews can settle anywhere, [but] it has to be done by agreement, and not now," said MK Yael Dayan (Labor), who arrived at the site yesterday to demonstrate, along with 40 members of Peace Now, Meretz leader Yossi Sarid, and Faisal Hussein, Palestinian Authority minister of Jerusalem affairs.



Border policemen stand guard in Ras al-Amud yesterday. (AP)

Dayan was supported in her view by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense

Committee that Ras al-Amud "could be the catalyst for further violence in the capital. Steps have to be taken to prevent an outbreak

of such events. It could lead to a conflagration."

See PM, Page 2

**'Cabinet
knew
of plan'**

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The possibility of Jews moving into Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neighborhood came up at an emergency cabinet meeting on September 5, the day after the suicide bombings on the capital's Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall.

Sources say National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon assumed that Jews would move into Ras al-Amud as a punishment to Palestinians who support terrorism.

The sources said Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told his cabinet colleagues that he knew of two buildings in Ras al-Amud which were earmarked for entry by Jews. The premises are owned by American businessman Irving Moskowitz.

When asked about this cabinet sequence, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "total nonsense." However, a day before the families entered the buildings, the sources said, Netanyahu advised the Interior Ministry not to demolish four illegally built homes in the Sawraha area near Jebel Mukaber.

The sources said the premier's request was aimed to create the impression that Jews were being allowed to take up residence in an all-Arab neighborhood, while destroying Arab homes elsewhere in the city.

Netanyahu also was said to have requested that the Interior Ministry appeals committee which was considering the Ras al-Amud issue postpone its meeting from Thursday to Sunday, so its decision would not be announced while Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was in the country.

Assembly plan meets Welsh suspicion

MERTHYR TYDFIL, Wales. - The stone gateway to Merthyr Tydfil reads "Croeso" - "welcome" in Welsh - but to an English visitor it is hard to understand why.

Spurning their native tongue, many Merthyr Tydfil folk are suspicious and resentful of the Welsh speakers, who live mostly in mountainous north Wales.

This antipathy is undermining the British Labor government's plans to introduce a political assembly to represent Wales, based in Cardiff.

A referendum on whether to establish the parliament will be held on Thursday and while opinion polls suggest the vote could go

either way, many in south Wales are firmly opposed to the idea.

Scotland voted last week in favor of a government plan to set up a parliament in Edinburgh.

"We will end up ruined by those Welsh speakers," says 71-year-old Jean Morgan, who lives in Merthyr Tydfil, once the iron capital of the world in the populous South Wales valleys.

Another shopper in the town some 32 km north of Cardiff agrees. "I'm afraid [the assembly] would encourage nationalism and too much nationalism always produces violence," says Elizabeth Hardy.

"Wales is divided enough already, this will only make it worse," adds another.

The Welsh divide is indeed immense. While the busy, cosmopolitan capital Cardiff and surrounding areas are thriving, parts of rural north Wales are riddled with unemployment and poverty. The northern Welsh speakers say

their southern compatriots have lost their national identity and refer to them derisively as the "Wenglish."

The gulf is as much geographic as anything. It takes almost five hours by winding road to travel from Cardiff to Llandudno, about 200 km away as the crow flies, in the north. There are no direct rail services between the two towns.

Daron Hill, running a campaign to win a "Yes" vote for Wales, believes these divisions will be overcome on the day of the referendum.

The assembly's 60 members would be elected by a form of proportional representation and Welsh speakers would be unlikely to dominate it because they are in a minority of about one in five, Hill points out.

Nevertheless Welsh speakers have been highly successful in their campaign to revive the language, once banned by the English, and it is because of this that all road signs and official material are in both

Welsh and English.

Hill believes there has been a huge change in attitudes in Wales since 1979, when the country voted four-to-one against plans for a Welsh parliament, and that this time there will be a resounding "yes" vote.

Hill attributes the change of heart to the 18 years of Conservative rule which have filled the intervening years, a period during which government became increasingly centralized in London.

The "no" campaigners say devolution would be a disaster for Wales.

"Britain has been a very successful place for the Welsh," says Tim Williams, the campaign's ebullient front man.

"Wales has been a part of Britain since the 13th century. We Welsh think of ourselves as British."

Not only would devolution divide Wales between north and south and Welsh and non-Welsh speakers, but it could also lead inexorably to independence, which would be a financial disaster, says Williams. (Reuters)

PA arrests 4 in 'plot to kill Arafat'

By STEVE RODAN

Four Palestinians from the Hebron area have been arrested as suspects in what a Palestinian Police official said yesterday was a plot to kill Yasser Arafat organized by Abu Nidal.

"We have four people in detention whom we suspect might be connected to a plot to kill President Arafat," Hebron police chief Col. Tarek Zaid said last night. "We will be continuing our investigation and we hope to have more information soon."

Human rights activists confirmed the arrests, but cast doubt whether the charges were authentic.

Senior Palestinian Authority security sources said they did not know of hard information of an Abu Nidal plot to kill Arafat, and one of them said the story could be an attempt to garner sympathy for the Palestinian leader.

Palestinian sources in Hebron said the men were arrested in their homes at the Arroub refugee camp on Sunday and are being held at the PA Police station in Dahariya.

The men were identified as Subhi Jabari, Wa'al and Mahmoud

Awadel, and Bassem Banat. A fifth man is being sought.

Palestinian Police sources said the suspects received \$40,000 from the Abu Nidal organization to carry out the assassination. They said the suspects were arrested before they were to leave for Jordan.

**Hamas showing discontent
over recent arrests, Page 4**

The sources said Abu Nidal was involved in the assassination of several PLO figures, including Sabri Khalaf (Abu Iyad) in the early 1990s.

Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub denied that there have been arrests in connection with a plot to kill Arafat. "This is untrue," he said.

A policeman in the Dahariya station said he did not know any such suspects were being held in the building.

Arafat's wife, Suha, however, confirmed there have been plots to kill her husband. "After [Yitzhak]

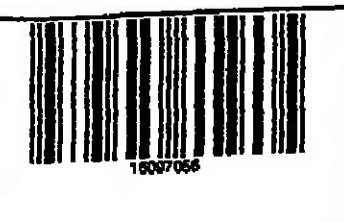
Rabin died, I wonder who will be the next widow of the Middle East and who will the finger be pointed at," she told CNN.

Bassam Eid, director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, said the arrests sounded similar to the detention of Sari Hussein Mahamid in April 1995.

Mahamid was arrested immediately after entering the West Bank via the Allenby Bridge and was accused of plotting to kill Arafat, as well as Rabin, Ariel Sharon, and Rabbi Moshe Levinger.

In a letter sent to then-PA justice minister Freil Abu Medcin in March 1997 from Jericho prison, Mahamid wrote: "The interrogators swore to me that I am not the one they want, but that there is a conspiracy to kill President Arafat and they want me to testify against them, even though I don't know any of them. They said they don't need many details and that one accusation is enough. If I would testify against them then President Arafat will forgive me."

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.



NEWS

in brief

IDF must justify failure to honor prison deal

High Court Justice Ya'acov Turkel yesterday gave the IDF's Judge Advocate-General 30 days to explain why it failed to honor the agreement it reached with rioting inmates at Military Prison No. 6. Turkel was responding to a petition by Roman Kogan, one of the rioters, who asked that the IDF be ordered to uphold the agreement and to quash the indictment it later filed against him. Turkel also ordered the Judge Advocate-General to explain why the indictment should not be dropped.

Police tow Jews' cars to allow Hebron roadwork

As roadwork commenced on a section of Shubada Street in Hebron yesterday, police towed away 14 vehicles belonging to local Jews, who police claim parked their cars to prevent the work from being carried out.

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said the settlers had been informed on Sunday about the pending roadwork. But Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Arnon claimed that no one had received prior notification.

Hebron settlers claim the road improvements will bring terrorists to the front doors of the Jewish enclaves along the road, once it is opened to Palestinian traffic.

Lunar eclipse tonight

There will be a total eclipse of the moon tonight, beginning at 7:08 and reaching complete darkness at 8:46. The full eclipse will last until 9:18, after which the moon will begin to reemerge, with the first point of light seen in the southeast. The moon will be completely unveiled by 10:25. The next total lunar eclipse will be seen here on January 9, 2001.

Still hope for compromise on conversion bill

Although the committee on conversions has long since passed the August 15 deadline by which it was to have presented its conclusions, it is still meeting and some members still hold out a hope that it can agree on a compromise.

The committee, which is headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, had met almost daily until August 15. Since then, it has met more infrequently. It includes five Orthodox members and one representative each from the Conservative and Reform movements.

Song for Diana on sale in Tel Aviv

Elton John's tribute to Princess Diana, a remake of his mid-1970s hit "Candle in the Wind," went on sale yesterday, but there was no line to buy it at Tower Records in Tel Aviv.

Hani Grochovsky, 20, said that she watched the funeral and heard John singing, "but I don't have the money right now to buy the disc."

Helicon, the local distributor, said the company has been receiving scores of phone calls daily from people wanting to know when it would come out. Business picked up slightly later in the day when people got off work and out of school. Profits from the NIS 25 disc will go to charities here, with British royalties going to the princess's memorial fund.

Chemical warfare drill in capital

A large exercise for evacuating and treating chemical warfare "victims" will be carried out at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital tomorrow afternoon. The civil defense exercise, from 1 to 4 p.m., will be held in conjunction with the IDF Home Front Command, Medical Corps, and the Health Ministry.

Moratinos: EU '100% behind Israel' on security

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The European Union's attitude toward the government's peace policy and the EU's stance against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorism differs from that of France, according to EU special peace envoy, Ambassador Miguel Moratinos.

At a meeting yesterday with Foreign Minister David Levy, the Spanish diplomat was quoted as having said "the EU is 100 percent behind you with regard to the need for internal security."

Moratinos said the situation created by intermittent acts of terrorism was "intolerable" and that the EU's analysis of its causes and the

need to fight it is identical to that of Israel.

However, the EU envoy went on to say that Israel must act effectively to remove the obstacles currently blocking the Middle East peace process.

Moratinos is scheduled to proceed from Israel to Egypt, with a stopover in Cyprus, where he now makes his home, and from Cairo to the US for talks with the State Department's Dennis Ross.

AP adds: The European Union yesterday welcomed Israel's transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority. As a short-term gesture, the 15-member bloc said it would hand over four million Euros (\$4.4 million) to the Palestinians.

In his final, brave struggle

ZIGY HAHN

was accompanied constantly by the deeply loving presence and support of Ilona and Aviva.

He died surrounded by his friends who were also his family.

He will always be with us.

We extend our condolences to our colleague, Nomi Zaharan, on the death of her mother

JUDITH WEISS

The Management and Staff of The Jerusalem Post

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

extends condolences to our esteemed colleague, Ilana Artman on the passing of her

BROTHER

Malcolm Hoenlein
Melvin Salberg

PA condemns Ras al-Amud 'provocation'

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza last evening from Egypt to deal with what his aides said is a new crisis sparked by the entry of three Jewish families into a building in Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neighborhood.

PA officials said the entry of the Jews constitutes a new provocation of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and warned of a new crisis in Palestinian-Israeli relations.

"I think it's a dangerous and irresponsible step," PA Higher Education Minister Hanan

Ashrawi said. "It's a spark in the powder keg. It will lead to a new crisis."

Ashrawi asserted that the building does not belong to US Jewish philanthropist Irving Moskowitz and that its ownership is still being disputed in an Israeli court. "This is all political and extremely explosive," she added.

PA Finance Minister Mohammed Zohdi Nashashibi warned that the Jewish entry into Ras al-Amud constitutes "a hostile act, an act of terror. Nobody has the right to control the land of someone else by force." In an interview on Palestinian television, Nashashibi said the Palestinian people will

fight the Jewish entry "with all the legitimate possibilities open to us."

The officials did not openly suggest that the authority would use force to respond to the situation. The PA-aligned newspaper *Al-Ayam* published a story high on its front page that reported on Netanyahu's opposition to the construction of housing for Jews in Ras al-Amud.

Sources in the Fatah movement said they are trying to maintain calm among the Palestinians at least until the future of the Jewish presence in Ras al-Amud is clarified. Over the past few months, the Fatah sources said they have rejected the calls of Hamas

activists for violent confrontations in Jerusalem.

Faisal Husseini, the PA minister responsible for Jerusalem, said he is trying to ensure that the tensions do not explode into violence. He said he has been trying, albeit unsuccessfully, to contact Israeli authorities to contain the situation.

Still, Husseini, who toured the area around the building moved into by the Jewish families, said he deplores their arrival.

"This is a provocative act that runs contrary to signed agreements and prevents one side from using his land legally," he said. "This matter will influence the situation in Jerusalem."

Opposition: Move into Ras al-Amud will lead to bloodshed

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The move by three Jewish families into Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neighborhood raised a furor in the opposition, whose leaders saw it as an attempt to sabotage the peace process that would lead to disaster.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said the government had sent the settlers to Ras al-Amud in a deliberate step to blow up the peace process.

Sarid also called it "a very dangerous provocation, and it should be stopped immediately. The prime minister has to stop it without any further delay."

"The government is responsible and without it, it would not have happened. The first thing the government should have done was to send those contemptible creatures packing... As if we don't have enough soldiers getting killed in Lebanon, there is someone looking for more war, more casualties and more heartbreak," Sarid said.

Labor MK Uzi Baram told Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai "you and your government, who are responsible for security, are in fact leading us to the next war. Your putting up with the invasion of Ras al-Amud and with extreme acts of provocation will inflame the whole state and endanger all its citizens."

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak said the incident would lead to an explosion.

"It's an act of Chelm. A government isn't supposed to be led in such sensitive issues by individuals' provocation. (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu must call on the head of the General Security Service, the attorney-general, the police minister and mayor, and evacuate these people immediately, for this is a matter of public safety."

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker said the countdown to the next terrorist attack has begun, and the blood of the victims will be "on the hands of the provocateurs from Ras al-Amud, who did what they did with the silent consent of the prime minister. This act will lead extreme Palestinians to murder, because they will assume Israel has no wish for reconciliation and is interested only in provocation and trampling their rights."

The National Religious Party, meanwhile, expressed satisfaction with the Jewish families' move.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy said "it's unthinkable that we should need a permit for every house in Jerusalem. All this talk against the settlers, pours fuel on the fire of Arab violence."

NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat expressed "regret" over Netanyahu's criticism of the move.

"He does not understand that the unity of Jerusalem means deeds as well as slogans. Only Jewish life near the Mount of Olives will bring back the tens of thousands who have gone missing since the outbreak of the intifada," Porat said.

MK Nissan Slomiansky (NRP) called to start building in Ras al-Amud immediately "to tell our enemies as well as our friends, that Jerusalem is not up for negotiation. It's the capital of Israel and so it will stay."

Eli Wohlgeleerner and BatSheva Tsor contributed to this report.

'The Jews are here, and we're here to stay'

BEEN THERE

Standing on the roof of the building in Ras al-Amud that he had helped three families move into late the night before, Rom Torossian was unequivocal over what the furor was all about.

"We don't believe the issue is Jerusalem; we don't believe the issue is eastern Jerusalem," said Torossian, a spokesman for Jerusalem Is Ours, a recently established secular right-wing group. "The issue is Jews in the Middle East; the issue is the State of Israel. It's very simple: These people do not want the Jews here, and we're here to show them that we're not going anywhere; the Jews are here, and we're here to stay."

"Fifteen people have settled here in Ras al-Amud, have taken up permanent residence here. We want to put facts on the ground to make the point that Jerusalem cannot be negotiated."

On the street below, many were taking exception to Torossian's opinion, loudly and at times physically. It was a hot and long day, but a new line of scrimmage in the battle over Jerusalem had been drawn 12 hours earlier, and there was no time to waste in defending it.

"The problem here is not a legal problem; it is a political problem," said Faisal Husseini, minister of Jerusalem affairs for the Palestinian Authority. "We thought that this [Oslo] agreement was supposed to be a win-win game. The Israelis want it to be a win-lose one."

"The danger is that someone will come and say, 'OK, let us make it loser-loser.' And there are people who think this way, and the most important ally for them are those people, the settlers, and the government. They are giving more and more credibility to the loser-loser game."

This latest episode began at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, when three families, 15 people, moved into a two-story building owned by Irving Moskowitz, a Miami-based philanthropist. The group was accompanied by 10 armed security guards and 30 supporters.

By 11:30, a group of Arab youths led by Hussein arrived to protest, initiating a stone-throwing melee that lasted half an hour, according to eyewitnesses, until police arrived to calm the situation. Many windows were broken in the building, and cars on the street were damaged.

"We were very, very afraid, until things calmed down," said Baya Klein, 21, one of the Jews to move in. "When the police arrived, there was a lot of tension, things were really going crazy. There were very few security people. The



An aerial shot of the Ras al-Amud neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem.

Arabs were throwing stones, and a couple of people were taken to the hospital. I got hit in the back. We kept calling the police, but they showed up late."

From the roof of the building, one is afforded a sweeping vista of eastern Jerusalem, from the Mount of Olives to the Dome of the Rock. "I love this area, because it's close to the source," said Klein, sweeping her hand toward the Temple Mount. "We've been looking for a place around here for several months, and we found it here. We heard for quite a time they were planning a settlement nucleus, and we signed up."

"I hope that this is just the beginning, that I'll be here a long time, that I'll sit here with my grandchildren and tell them what happened here."

Others expressed a different view of the future. Galia Golan, a spokeswoman for Peace Now,

which, gathered at the site yesterday in protest, said the move can only incite more violence.

"I feel anger and disgust, because this is so clearly a provocative step," she said. "To come right into the middle of an Arab neighborhood in the heart of east Jerusalem... there's no point to it. It's quite clear that it's intended to cause trouble... It's irresponsible, and it's dangerous."

Golan said she holds the government responsible, even though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke out against the move.

The issue of the legality of the move was also debated by the various personalities who were present.

MK Yael Dayan said the issue is not just one building inhabited by Jews in an Arab neighborhood.

"It's not an innocent thing to say it's one house," she said. "It's a

concept, that Jews can live in the middle of Arab populations to prevent any kind of Arab contiguity. It's a concept of superiority, of racism, of feeling that it's all ours, and others have no rights here."

Golan said it is not a question of whether there is a legal right to move in or not. "Of course they bought the house, they probably bought other houses, but we're not exactly in a situation of peace and quiet," she said. "There's a whole political side to be considered, and [Netanyahu] has a responsibility to all of Israel and Jerusalem. And an act, whether legal or illegal, that endangers the country and endangers the population is an irresponsible act."

Dayan said that although Jews might legally be allowed to move in to the neighborhood, "legally you can probably climb Al-Aksa and put an [Israeli] flag there, so not everything that's legal is just."

Albright told journalists travelling with her.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

PM

Continued from Page 1

The tenants of the house - who are calling the site the "Mount of Olives neighborhood" - were visited by several MKs including Benny Alon and Rehavam Ze'evi (Mokedet), Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), Moshe Peled (Tsomet), and Michael Kleiner (Gesher).

Kleiner said he came to tell the inhabitants that he supported them, and that their acts were legal.

"We are in favor of legal acts;

we are a democratic country; and the prime minister has no right to tell a landowner when to build on his land."

"It is hypocrisy for the Palestinians on the one hand to encourage poor Jewish families from Mevasseret to go and live in Jericho, and this doesn't disturb them and will not cause any trouble, and then when Jews, legally, move into an apartment, to say this is a threat to the peace process."

Some of the back and forth between the two sides turned nasty, with Sarid saying that Porat "doesn't just want to kill the Oslo

Accords, he wants to bury them, and to this aim, he uses every possible means, including those which are illegal, very grave, and dangerous."

Reuters adds:

Albright said yesterday that the move was "not a helpful act."

But on the plane flying home after her first Middle East tour, she sought to distance Netanyahu from the affair.

"What Prime Minister Netanyahu has done is to say that he did not think that going forward with the building of that whole [project] was a good idea,"

agreed to resume peace talks.

"The result probably will be very different for both of us from the initial starting position," Netanyahu said in a speech in Jerusalem. "That's what negotiations are for."

"The Syrians are allowed to put forth any demand they want," he said. "I don't ask Syria to give up its demands - neither should they ask us to do so."

CORRECTION

The obituary notice that was placed in yesterday's *Post* by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, extending condolences to Ilana Artman on the death of her brother, should have been signed by Melvin Salberg and Malcolm Hoenlein. The correct notice appears today.

SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

The situation is very volatile and Israel is doing its best to stabilize it without further deterioration, he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted yesterday that Israel would be flexible on the future of the Golan Heights if Syria

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

We have been greatly touched by the many moving messages of condolence that we have received following the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

So many of you have written that we cannot acknowledge each message individually. But we should like to thank all in Israel who have expressed their sympathy, and to say how much we value your support.

British Embassy, Tel Aviv

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Albright: Lebanon, Syria vital for peace

News agencies

BEIRUT — Progress in Israeli peace talks with Lebanon and Syria is "absolutely essential" for a regional settlement, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Lebanese leaders yesterday.

Albright arrived on an unannounced visit at the end of her regional tour.

After coming in by helicopter from Cyprus, Albright met with President Elias Hrawi at the presidential palace in Baabda, about 5 kilometers southeast of Beirut. Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez also attended the hour-long session.

She described the meeting as "excellent and constructive."

"We must go forward on all tracks," Albright said at a joint news conference with Bouez after the meeting.

"The Lebanese-Israeli track is absolutely essential for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, which the US supports and is totally committed to."

Bouez said he hoped Albright's visit marked the return of the US "as a driving force and an honest broker."

"The role of the United States is indeed essential for the resumption of negotiations," he said.

"The Lebanese-Israeli track is absolutely essential for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement," she said. "We must go forward on all tracks." She also praised Lebanon's efforts to rebuild from its 1975-1990 civil war.

"Lebanon is a friend and, we believe, a country that is headed in the right direction," Albright told reporters. "We have some important bilateral business, and we're looking



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright poses yesterday with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi (center) and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri at the Presidential Palace in Baabda. Albright made an unannounced stopover at the end of her regional tour. (AP)

forward to ways in which the US can assist in the recovery of Lebanon."

Albright promised to visit again to check on Lebanon's progress, "because I think that we're going to see many changes here, and the United States wants to be part of it."

Security was heavy for Albright's visit. At least four Lebanese army

helicopters hovered over Beirut and a coastal stretch to the north on reconnaissance patrols.

American, Syrian and Lebanese security units were deployed around the city to protect her. The USS *Spruance*, a lance missile cruiser, kept off the coast.

The last visit by a secretary of state

to Lebanon was in April 1996, when Warren Christopher went to the eastern town of Choura to broker the Operation Grapes of Wrath ceasefire between Hizbullah and the IDF.

Albright was received warmly because on July 30, she lifted a decade-long ban on Americans traveling to Lebanon. The travel ban had

been imposed during Lebanon's civil war and amid the kidnappings of Americans and other Westerners by Islamic extremists.

Although Albright lifted the ban, she replaced it with a strong travel advisory, saying Lebanon remains a dangerous place for American travelers.

Netanyahu blasts Sharon for attack on GSS morality

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday issued statements of support for the General Security Service, in the face of a tirade against the GSS launched by Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Netanyahu issued a statement saying, "The members of the GSS are performing a sacred mission of defending citizens' lives. They work day and night, endangering their lives, and in recent weeks they succeeded in thwarting a series of attacks. Thus it is out of place to denigrate them in any way; on the contrary, they should be supported."

Netanyahu added that, if anyone has complaints about the great dependence of the GSS on the Palestinian security apparatus, they should direct them to the architects of the Oslo agreements and not to the GSS.

At the Knesset, the committee said it "recognizes the difficult work, the goodwill, the talent, and the ability of the GSS and is aware of the large number of terrorist attempts it has foiled," the committee members said in a unanimous statement.

The committee also extended its support to members of the IDF.

In remarks before Likud activists in Jerusalem on Sunday night and broadcast by Israel Radio yesterday, Sharon accused GSS leaders of gallivanting with their Palestinian counterparts in pubs and swimming pools, and said the Oslo agreements had corrupted the service.

Sharon slammed the opposition, which he charged with helping Israel's enemies in their assault on the government, then stated that instead of fighting the Palestinians, GSS agents were gadding about with Palestinian security men.

"The decision to put our security in the hands of the Palestinian security services, and we know exactly of whom they consist, was a terrible mistake. Now this has corrupted our security services."

You can't go gallivanting together in hotels, restaurants, and bars, swim together in swimming pools, stroll together, and fight them at the same time," he said.

Sharon urged the government to instruct the GSS to deliver what is required of it without the cooperation of the Palestinians, saying "this cooperation has had a corrupting effect."

Strong criticism of Sharon's remarks was voiced by many MKs, including former deputy GSS head Gideon Ezra (Likud), who described the minister's criticism as "a grave mistake."

"This is sheer madness, a lack of any restraint," MK Haim Ramon (Labor) added. "It is verbal corruption on the part of Sharon."

Labor MK Haim Sharon demanded firing Sharon from the cabinet for what he called "unbridled incitement against the GSS warriors."

Mordechai expressed regret over Sharon's statements, saying, "I know how many disasters and how much pain they saved the nation from."

Opposition leader MK Ehud Barak said the GSS has always had successes as well as failures. "I believe the very cooperation with the Palestinian security services which Sharon attacked is an essential part of any framework of personal security in the future," Barak said.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said Sharon's statements about the GSS "are sickening, and show a tremendous amount of ingratitude. According to Sharon's description, we're dealing with corrupt GSS people living it up in pubs and bars and swimming pools. The only thing he didn't say was a brothel; that awful, dangerous man."

Mordechai leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi said, "The GSS has been castrated and worse by the whole state, from bus No. 300 and even the murder of the prime minister. Since that [Oslo] agreement, the GSS has come under the growing influence of Palestinian intelligence elements, to the extent that I can read Jibril Rajoub's opinion between the lines of GSS evaluations. [But] from here to meals and parties there is quite a distance."

Hanegbi: PA violating judicial agreements

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi lashed out at the Palestinian Authority's failure to keep judicial agreements at yesterday's swearing-in ceremony for 15 judges at Beit Hanassi.

"There is a deep crisis with regard to mutual trust, cooperation, and the recognition that there is no way back," he said. "A crisis leads to frustration and frustration, to despair."

Hanegbi said this despair had increased over the past year with regard to the legal agreements. The Palestinians had cancelled the first meeting of the joint legal affairs commit-

tee and that of the attorney-general with his PA counterpart.

Numerous Israeli families are suffering, Hanegbi said, because the PA had failed to implement Israeli court rulings on debts owed.

"But, in my eyes, the most annoying issue is the total infingement of the agreement which obliges the Palestinians to turn over to Israel persons suspected of crimes, for whom an arrest warrant has been issued by the courts at the request of the attorney-general."

He said numerous requests with regard to terrorists have gone unanswered.

Foreign Ministry study: Moslem theologians defend suicide bombers

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A study by Foreign Ministry expresses fear that the support and sympathy expressed by prominent Islamic theologians for suicide bombers will legitimize such acts and prompt calls for more of them.

A wide array of public pronouncements by Moslem religious leaders in recent months led the ministry's research team to detect a growing trend in the Arab world to justify these attacks mainly because of their political and social motives.

"Because suicide is prohibited in Islam as it is in Judaism," the newly-released study found, "religious leaders do not use the term 'suicide,' but 'martyrdom.'"

It quotes the sheikh of Al-Azhar in Cairo, Mohammed Sa'ad Tantawi, as having said: "One who blows him-

self up among enemies, to defend his land, is considered a martyr."

Tantawi's remark was quoted in the Egyptian opposition daily *al-Wagdi*.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the general-secretary of Hizbullah, in an interview with Al-Manar TV last month, said: "The way to restore Palestine to the memory of the nations is to return to the option of jihad and suicide for Allah's sake — martyrdom as warriors of Islam and the Palestinians have done in years past."

Similarly, Syrian Mufti Khatun in a newspaper interview described suicide bombings as "legitimate in Islam because they are carried out in the name of Allah and to drive the heavy oppression from our land."

Tantawi also told students at the University of Alexandria, he had no alternative "but to tell our Palestinian brothers: 'Defend yourselves, your

rights, your land, and your dignity. Defend these by the means that Islam and the teachings of morality approve, without weapons or aggression.'"

Although he condemned the murder of children, the elderly, or the helpless, he asked, "What can we expect from the Palestinians when the prime minister repeats, every morning and evening, that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, when this statement contradicts logic, religion, and the law... 'Oppression gives birth to the attack [literally 'explosion'] and a person on whom the oppression weighs is liable to sacrifice himself, for those with dignity prefer death to a life of submission.'"

Tantawi added: "Since the Jews cause us evil, we must fight them courageously. If I die in defense of my religion, my land, and my property, I am a martyr."

Customer shoots dead Herzliya bank robber

Thomas Pickering's remark when he was the ambassador here: "Only your government is authorized to decide in these critical issues and must accept the responsibility."

Zak adds that as American support reaches \$3 billion a year, Washington no longer needs to threaten or use sanctions: "Its interest is to keep Israel strong."

A letter from Lebanon

In a letter to *Ma'ariv*, a Golani Brigade soldier serving in Lebanon shares his feelings. "We have a war and it is painful, but we have also won worse wars, and when we are in Lebanon things seem different," the soldier writes. "The morale is high and there are successes... Come here and maybe you will see things differently."

A customer shot a bank robber to death during a robbery at a Bank Mizrahi branch in Herzliya yesterday.

Police said the robber, Abdel Jabara, 22, of Taiba, entered the branch and at first stood in line, but then jumped over the counter and approached the chief teller who stood near the safe holding NIS 50,000. Jabara was holding a screwdriver.

The customer called to Jabara to stop. When he did not, the customer shot him in the head. Jabara died immediately.

A Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court judge banned publication of any information about the customer, who was released from custody after questioning. Jabara's family yesterday threatened to

avenge his death.

Police sources said they believe the shooting was justified and the customer would not be charged. (Tim)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

The Hebrew press responded to the death of Hadi Nasrallah, son of the Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in a clash with an IDF force on Friday night and whose body was brought to Israel. The prospect that his body may be exchanged for the body of naval commando Third Petty Officer Itamar Ilyas stirred controversy.

Nasrallah's body should not be used as a bargaining chip, claims Reaya Hemik in *Ma'ariv*, adding that Israel should not adopt the filthy stratagem of its adversary. "We gave up blood vengeance thousands of years ago. We will bring him [Ilyas] home with the honor that he and fighters like him deserve."

Yosef Lapid, also in *Ma'ariv*, notes that the coincidence that the same man who celebrated the death of the commandos only a week ago, lost his son indicates that "this type of warfare provides no victories, only defeats." Nasrallah's boasting over his son's death should not mislead, claims Lapid. When things calm down, it will be possible to exchange the bodies of Ilyas and Nasrallah.

Writing in *Yediot Aharonot*, Yaron London rejects the prospect that a fanatic idealist like Nasrallah would bargain for his son's body. He suggests that the body be returned to Hizbullah unconditionally, as a constructive step toward building trust. "The body's value as a bargaining chip is dubious, and its

Palestinian disappointment

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit was a bitter disappointment to the Palestinians, writes Gideon Levy in *Ha'aretz*. "Sometimes a little hope that's lost is worse than no hope at all."

Yosef Lapid, in *Ma'ariv*, refers to Yasser Arafat's sickly, beaten appearance in his interview on Friday night's Channel 2 news, in which he was almost pleading that the Oslo process cannot be killed. Lapid adds that after Albright's visit, Arafat has realized the extent of the damage that Hamas terrorists have inflicted on the Palestinians.

"If Bibi wanted Arafat on his knees, he has succeeded. But a week and defeated Arafat, as presented on television, is not the man who can control Hamas," Lapid writes.

No American pressure

There is a change in American strategy in the region, reflects Oren Shohor in *Yediot*. He notes that no attempt was made to deepen their involvement. "It seems that the Americans are tired of us and Arafat. They are fed up."

Uri Avneri, in *Ma'ariv*, asserts that President Bill Clinton's primary goal is to get Arafat elected president. "Whoever wants to get elected in the US must not get into trouble

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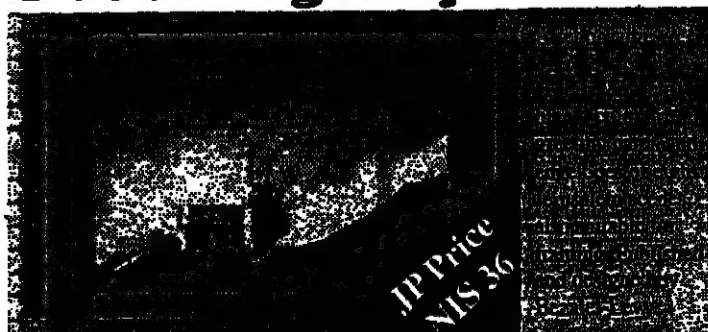
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PM: Histadrut causes unemployment

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday accused the Labor Party and the Histadrut of being responsible for the spiraling jobless rate, during a press conference on the government's NIS 120 m. campaign against unemployment.

Netanyahu, who appeared with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, said the Labor government had established a "Histadrut state" whose current industrial action is being staged for the wealthy and not the poor, as the Histadrut would have people believe.

Minutes before the press conference, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry published details of a seasonally adjusted 1 percent increase in the number of jobseekers during August. Those out of work but actively seeking employment totaled 147,000 in August, compared to 145,600 the previous month.

"We are not prepared to accept the plague of unemployment as a given fact, even with the irresponsible deficits and wage agreements that were left for us by the Histadrut state that existed here and which lost all our money," said Netanyahu. "After they robbed the state coffers 25 days before the election to fund their inflated pensions, for those earning twice the average wage, the Histadrut - which defends the rich - now comes to exploit the poor. We won't let them exploit. Let them put out their advertisements - we're doing the real work."

Histadrut chairman MK Amir Peretz issued a statement refuting Netanyahu's accusations and introducing some of his own.

"The Treasury continues its irresponsible and systematic mislead-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, flanked on his left by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, presents the government's job plan at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday.

ing, deceiving, and inciting," Peretz was quoted as saying. "At the same time as it oppresses the weak and the middle class, it imposes indirect and direct taxes by collecting an additional health tax, payments for government services via the municipalities... harms the elderly and the children, and increases unemployment."

Peretz said the government was "deceiving itself that the weaker strata of the economy would be left to fend for themselves, and so it preferred to hit them. But this time the Histadrut intends to uti-

lize the strongest workers of the economy on behalf of the weak."

Netanyahu and the other ministers turned their attention to the government's plans to reduce unemployment, which stood at 7.7% at the end of the first half of the year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The new government scheme aims at reducing unemployment in the North and the eastern and western Negev, where unemployment is particularly high.

However, according to Yishai, the Finance Ministry will, within 90 days, produce an all-embracing proposal for tackling unemployment

across the country. The NIS 120m. package aims to lower jobless levels in the periphery to the rates found in the center of the country. The methods to be implemented include ensuring pupils finish high school, professional training, the replacement of foreign workers, and help for small businesses.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry data show that among new immigrants the number of jobseekers dropped from 11,700 to 11,400. As a percentage of the overall number of jobseekers, immigrants comprised 7.5% last month, compared to 7.7% in July.

Other employment figures:

• The proportion of women jobseekers rose in August from 52.1% to 52.9%.

• The number of jobseekers in the Arab sector shrank from 14,700 to 14,500.

• The highest levels of unemployment are found in Ofakim (16.4%), Sderot (14.1%), Kuseifa (13.8%), Yeroham (12.8%), Kiryat Gat (12.8%), and Rahat (12.4%). Sixteen towns now have unemployment rates in excess of 10%.

• Eilat, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv have the lowest jobless rates at 1.9%, 3.1% and 3.5% respectively.

Pacemaker saves life of newborn baby

By JUDY SIEGEL

The life of a newborn baby boy - whose heartbeat was a third to a fourth of the normal rate - has been saved by quick-thinking Jerusalem doctors who adapted an external pacemaker used only for adults to regulate the rhythm. It is reportedly the first time in the world this device was used on a baby.

A few hours after his delivery, when electrodes pasted on his chest had stabilized his condition, he was taken to the operating room for the insertion of a permanent pacemaker in his abdomen.

The idea to use the US-made "prepared external non-invasive pacemaker" was that of Dr. Azaria Rein, head of pediatric cardiology at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

"In the 32nd week of pregnancy, a very slow heartbeat - 40 beats compared to the normal 120 to 160 per minute - was diagnosed in another Jerusalem hospital. The woman was transferred to Hadassah, where she delivered the baby by cesarean section a few weeks ago. Rein and his colleagues were ready with the adult pacemaker

brought from intensive care. Since the electrodes were 15 millimeters long - much too big for the infant - they shortened them to three millimeters.

Born with a structurally normal heart but an electrical problem (called congenital complete atrial-ventricular block) that seriously slowed the beat, the baby had to be resuscitated and would not have survived urgent surgery to implant a permanent pacemaker.

Until now, such cases - which are rare - received drug treatment, but this can be very risky to a newborn.

Three hours after the external pacemaker was attached to the outside of his chest, his heartbeat became normal and he was able to undergo the surgery under a general anesthetic. A 20-gram pacemaker was implanted, using an electrode with a loop so it can "grow" with him. Rein explained.

He will have to undergo a 50 milli-ampere battery replacement every few years but will completely normal. The child has been discharged and sent home "completely healthy," Rein said.

Hamas showing discontent over recent arrests by PA

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hamas leaders are showing signs of discontent and division over the prospects of closer security ties between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The leaders warn that PA measures to crack down on Hamas will cause the organization to splinter into groups that will continue terror attacks against Israel regardless of arrests of Islamic fundamentalists.

Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook, who resides in Jordan, told the *Al Quds* daily yesterday that his organization has not reached any agreement with the PA to stop terrorist attacks against Israel.

"This subject was not raised at all and it is not on the agenda," Abu Marzook said. "Those brothers who represent the movement [in the dialogue with

the PA] have no power of attorney in this regard."

So far, about 150 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants remain in jail, arrested during the Middle East tour of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Hamas leaders said they've been reassured by the PA that the latest detainees will be released soon. They also said PA officials told them that Hamas will not be the victims of security cooperation with Israel.

Still, the trigger for Hamas discontent has been the disappearance of Ibrahim Makadmeh, believed to be a leader of the organization's military wing, Izzadin Kassam.

At first, Hamas published a leaflet asserting that he was abducted by Israeli undercover agents. But yesterday Hamas leaders acknowledged that he might have been detained by the PA, pointing out that he has been

wanted by both the Palestinian and Israeli security services.

They are not accusing the PA publicly, however, to prevent a confrontation. They said the basis for their dialogue with the PA must remain their joint opposition to Israel and to any cooperation with it.

"We don't want to put the PA in a corner," a Hamas official said. "We don't want to break the trust with the PA."

Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi was unwilling to discuss the leaflet on Makadmeh. "What I can say is that Hamas has not published a leaflet to camouflage the truth about Makadmeh," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Rantisi said he is not even sure whether Hamas actually published the leaflet. "It is still a secret whether it was Hamas or somebody from the other side," he said, without elaborating.

WJRO members skip Swiss fund's first meeting

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Swiss government assailed the World Jewish Restitution Organization yesterday, saying its failure to attend the first meeting of the humanitarian fund would delay aid to needy Holocaust survivors.

"These absences defy comprehension," the Swiss Federal Council said in a statement issued in Bern.

And, in its harshest public statement in the last six months, the Swiss government said it "made an urgent appeal to the WJRO representatives to honor the agreement they undertook to work constructively" with the humanitarian fund.

The fund's governing council, which is comprised of nine Swiss delegates and nine representatives of the WJRO, was scheduled to convene yesterday in Bern.

The council was expected to approve proposals for the first payments to needy survivors, following the fund's announcement in July that it quickly would allocate SF 17 million of the SF 170 million humanitarian fund.

However, late last week, fund officials were advised that Jewish delegates would not attend. Two WJRO members were ill. The Swiss, however, feared that the others would not attend, depriving the fund of the quorum needed to make allocations.

They were also angered that there were no proposals presented by the WJRO about how to

allocate the initial payments from the fund, which was initiated on March 1.

"The Federal Council deeply regrets these absences and the lack of a proposal," the council said. "As a result, necessary help to thousands of elderly victims in need will unfortunately be delayed."

The WJRO said its absence was "not an expression of political controversy," said Marco Sassoli, secretary-general of humanitarian fund, adding that the Swiss members have "challenged" the WJRO to submit proposals for aiding the survivors by September 25.

Officials of the WJRO were not available for comment yesterday. The fund was formed under an agreement the WJRO had negotiated with the Swiss government in February. The money has come from the three major Swiss banks and Swiss industry. The Swiss National Bank has pledged SF 100 million, and American officials have suggested that others contribute, as well.

However, Swiss enterprises now balk at additional contributions, saying that in its first six months, the fund has not yet allocated a franc to survivors.

"The fund's failure to make any progress yesterday was only the latest in a series of woes. Last month, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, in Basel to celebrate the Zionist centenary, came under fire from Swiss officials when he called for the operation of the fund to be turned over to the WJRO.

Doctors call strike tomorrow

By JUDY SIEGEL

Doctors in nearly all the public hospitals and community health fund clinics will hold a 24-hour general strike from tomorrow morning due to what they say are Finance Ministry violations of a March agreement on adding job slots and special duty doctors.

The agreement was to add 360 doctors and 90 special duty doctors to the system.

The Israel Medical Association, which had postponed the strike from last week due to the Rehov Ben-Yehuda suicide bombings, said the strike is also the "beginning of the struggle against the Treasury's attempts to destroy the National Health Insurance Law and carry out structural changes in the health system."

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar was due last night to meet with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and hospital directors. Blachar said the physicians would not let the minister make such significant changes in the level of health services.

The strike will include all the public hospitals - those owned by the government, Kupat Holim Cholim, and those owned by voluntary organizations - except for Laniado in Netanya, which has a no-strike clause in workers' contracts.

They will function according to a reduced Shabbat schedule, except for delivery rooms, neonatal units, emergency rooms, dialysis units, and oncology departments, which will operate normally.

Hospital outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes will be closed. Health fund doctors - including independent ones who receive patients in their private offices - will take part in the strike.

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North Irish peace talks resume without Ulster Unionist Party

By MARTIN COWLEY

BELFAST (Reuters) — British and Irish leaders yesterday tried to coax reluctant unionists to attend the start of Northern Ireland peace talks, the first attended by the hard-line Irish nationalist Sinn Féin party since the 1920s.

The Ulster Unionist Party, the key voice of a Protestant majority which wants the province to stay British, welcomed the Anglo-Irish joint statement, but showed no immediate sign of sitting down with Sinn Féin, the political wing of the paramilitary Irish Republican Army.

UUP leader David Trimble said his party needed talks with the American chairman of the talks, former senator George Mitchell, on the format of the negotiations and said it would attend them "as soon as possible."

Trimble said his party, the province's biggest, wanted talks with Mitchell and British government minister Paul Murphy to discuss "the format of any substantive talks and the handling of the outstanding procedural issues."

The language suggested to Irish officials that the UUP would initially boycott direct talks with Sinn Féin, which wants to end British rule of the province, and instead would favor "proximity negotiations" through third parties.

Maneuvering by the province's key pro- and anti-British parties overshadowed what both governments have called the best chance in generations of resolving the inter-communal Northern Ireland conflict which has killed thousands.

While Sinn Féin and its moderate ally, the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP), gathered at the talks venue, Belfast's Stormont Castle, the UUP leadership and two small unionist parties met on the other side of town.

Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams dismissed doubts about the UUP's eventual participation, saying he expects the party to be at the talks sooner or later.

The UUP, meanwhile, was discussing the statement, issued shortly after dawn by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern,

which pressed Sinn Féin to prove its commitment to non-violence, one of the principles underpinning the year-long negotiations.

Britain and Ireland, the two custodians of a four-year-old peace initiative, told the UUP that there could be no change to the province's British status without the consent of its 1.5 million people, 60 percent Catholic and 40 percent Protestant.

The two prime ministers also said the various pro- and anti-British guerrilla groups are expected to disarm during the negotiations.

Their two-page statement was a direct response to an IRA declaration last week which said the guerrillas had "problems" with these two points.

The IRA believes that Ireland's 3.5 million people share its goal of reuniting the two Irelands and want them to take part in any future vote on Northern Ireland's British status. It refuses to give up its arms until a final peace agreement is reached.

Murphy said Adams faces tough questioning over Sinn Féin's willingness to accept the principles drawn up by Mitchell to reassure talks participants that they would stand by the ground rules.

"Sinn Féin/IRA are inextricably linked, so Gerry Adams has to face some tough questioning this afternoon. We will be making some very hard questions for Sinn Féin," he added.

The UUP believes that the IRA's July 20 cease-fire was a ruse to get Sinn Féin invited to the talks and that the guerrillas will go back to a war which killed 3,200 if a final settlement is not to their liking.

Trimble's party said that last week's IRA statement was at odds with Sinn Féin's commitment to the Mitchell principles and wanted the party to clarify its stance.

Adams told reporters that Sinn Féin and the IRA are "completely separate" organizations and would not be drawn on differences between the two.

"Other people may want to dance around this. We don't," said Adams.

Lord John Alderdice, leader of the centrist Alliance party, said the UUP meeting on the opposite side of town was "a bit of play-acting"



Rita Restorick holds a picture of her son, Stephen, who was killed by the Irish Republican Army in South Armagh last February, as she stands outside the gates of Stormont Castle Buildings in Belfast, where the Northern Ireland peace talks resumed yesterday. (AP)

and "the talks are going to go ahead in the next week or two." The UUP leaders were joined in their discussions by two smaller unionist groups, the Ulster Democratic Party and Progressive Unionist Party.

The two parties, both linked to "Loyalist" guerrilla groups

observing a cease-fire, said they would not attend Monday's talks session but would consult jailed activists on their next move.

The gunman's long shadow

Well, we've voted for our home rule," said a Scotsman in an E-mail to an Irish friend this weekend, "so when are you going to get yours?"

Very droll indeed! The Irish have been teasing their Celtic cousins about their lack of independence since 1922, when Ireland won its own. Both have had the same trouble with their formerly aggressive mutual neighbor for more than seven centuries.

The Scotsman's point is that his countrymen voted as a whole people for their new parliament in Edinburgh while Ireland is still a divided nation (with both halves having trouble sitting down at the same table yesterday).

The Scotsman's point is a sore one with some Irish. The treaty agreed to by Michael Collins that established the Irish state in the south and united Northern Ireland with Britain has to be accepted in the interests of good diplomatic and legal manners, but republican Irish have never understood Britain's penchant for drawing circles around arbitrary little groups and declaring they have a democratic right to "decide their own fate" (usually a fate linked to Britain.) More accurately, republicans have understood it as an act of devious and flexible self-interest — but have not understood why Britain has got away with it for so long in post-imperial times.

Democratic pimples There's that little pimple on the underbelly of Spain called Gibraltar. Must decide their own fate, the don't-wannabe-Spanish Gibraltarians. There are the couple of thousand sheep herders down on the Antarctic Falklands who could have been flown to depopulated islands off Scotland for a tiny fraction of the cost of the Falklands War and its aftermath. Must decide their own fate.

But then there were the Hong Kongers. How embarrassing when they had the nerve to suggest they might want to decide their own fate and live in Britain.

Which brings us back to Northern Ireland, and its modern majority made up of descendants of settlers who were supposed to expand, drive out the native Irish, and expunge their culture. Must decide their own fate. Why did someone not draw a circle around the pro-union supporters in Scotland and let them decide their own fate in a separate vote? Conversely, why not have a referendum of all Ireland on whether it should be united?

Actually, there is a serious possibility that if such a referendum were held, most of the citizens of the Republic of Ireland would tell Britain to keep their whiny unionists. "Who needs that lot? Nothing but trouble!" is a theme commonly heard in Dublin.

Yet the "all Ireland must decide" philosophy remains the core belief of the republican movement represented by Sinn Féin politicians and their powerful armed backers standing further back in the

shadows. All alone In one of those endless enigmas wrapped in riddles that obfuscate the Irish Problem, the "true republicans" have for decades had no say in the Irish Republic. Ever since the republic was proclaimed, Irish politics has been dominated by the two major parties —

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, with minority Labor as the coalition negotiator. Sinn Féin has been consistently and roundly rejected by Irish voters (adding a certain poignancy to the party's name which means "ourselves alone.") What the ballot cannot gain, the bullet can gain. It is by retaining the tattered mantle of the freedom fighter that the IRA and its smooth-talking frontmen have remained a force in Irish and British politics. And the British can take a lot of the blame for that.

By the end of the 1960s the IRA was a washed-out force, indeed, it issued a final statement humbly disbanding itself. That happened to coincide with the unforeseen rise of a civil rights movement among the repressed Catholic minority of Northern Ireland, whose leaders took their cue from the great anti-Vietnam and US civil rights demonstrations of the day.

Armed lamb The brutal attempts by the hated Northern Irish B-Special paramilitary police to repress the movement left both the British and Irish governments badly exposed. The great British democracy was exposed to the world for harboring a repressive and corrupt province where a third of the population was denied local election voting rights.

The Irish government was exposed as weak and unwilling to defend the beleaguered Catholic nationalists of the North — although any intervention would have been a grave violation of the 1922 treaty and would have amounted to a declaration of war against Britain.

It was a gift of the gods to the IRA. The joke of an organization that was about to exit history like a bedraggled lamb bounded back like a lion, proclaiming its traditional message that the only thing the Brits understood came from the barrel of a gun.

Whether the democratic Dublin and London governments care to admit it or not, it is the gun and the bomb that has brought Sinn Féin to a place of honor at the round table on the future of all Ireland. And just in case the governments remained unwilling to admit it, the IRA and Sinn Féin temporarily split like a trained amoeba at the weekend.

As Sinn Féin (aka the IRA) prepared to take its first seat in negotiations with the Brits since Michael Collins, the IRA (aka Sinn Féin) declared it was not at all happy about the parts of the negotiating framework that refers to surrendering arms.

"But then," the statement said sweetly, "the IRA is not a participant in these talks." Nudge, wink!

Yugoslavia, Croatia sign normalization pacts

By GORDANA KUKIC

BELGRADE (Reuters) — Yugoslavia and Croatia signed a package of inter-state agreements in Belgrade yesterday as part of a

gradual normalization of relations since their 1991-95 war.

"The signing of these six agreements is an important step in the normalization of relations between our two states," Croatian

Foreign Minister Mate Granic told reporters.

"This is also an important step for the successful completion of the reintegration of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and West Srem

into the Croatian legal system," he added.

Granic was referring to the Serb majority populated region in eastern Croatia, at present under UN transitional administration

(UNTAES).

He said the process of peaceful reintegration was unfolding successfully and hoped it would end on January 15, 1998, when the UNTAES mission is due to end. Croatia has accepted an observer mission of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe in the region after that date to monitor the protection of human, minority, ethnic rights of all citizens in the region.

The Belgrade meeting was the fourth meeting between Granic and Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic since the former Balkan foes signed a normalization agreement in August 1996.

The ministers have signed agreements on border trade and border crossings, international road and railway traffic, social insurance and international legal help.

Milutinovic said this package of agreements would enable a faster flow of people between the two countries.

"The agreement on border traffic which will enable us to have soft borders between Yugoslavia and Croatia especially in the Srem-Baranja region where unhindered passage will be possible for the citizens of both countries," he said.

Milutinovic said Yugoslav-Croatian relations were improving. "Everything cannot be resolved overnight but we are on a good road to establish appropriate relations in this area between our two countries," he added.

The problem of missing persons, protection of minorities and traffic on the river Danube were also on the agenda of Belgrade talks.

The talks are to continue today on economic, trade and financial cooperation.



Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic (right) shakes hands with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic in Belgrade yesterday, after signing a six-part bilateral agreement which further normalizes relations between the two former enemies. (AP)

India and Pakistan resume fragile dialogue

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India and Pakistan resume a fragile dialogue here today to try to build trust after tensions caused by cross-border artillery duels in disputed Kashmir and tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamshad Ahmad arrived in the Indian capital yesterday and said the two countries aim to activate working groups on issues that divide them during the three-day talks.

But hopes for improving ties have dimmed due to the artillery exchanges over the past two months, and expulsions of junior embassy personnel announced over the weekend.

"The cross-border firing and the expulsions on the eve of the talks have made things pretty tense," Iyotindra Nath Dixit, a former Indian foreign secretary, said.

Both countries had agreed at the last round of talks in June in Islamabad to set up mechanisms "to address in a purposeful and integrated manner all outstanding issues including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Ahmad said in a brief airport statement.

These issues included a military stand-off on the remote Siachen Glacier as well as maritime boundary demarcation, peace and security and trade.

"Our discussions during this round will focus on operationalizing the agreed mechanism," he said. India's Foreign Secretary K. Raghunath said the new mechanisms would "lay the basis for a comprehensive and sustained dialogue between our two countries on a wide range of subjects."

The two sides chose to be ambiguous on

how the central issue of Kashmir would be handled, despite the warm language.

While New Delhi said that it had agreed to discuss Kashmir as part of the dialogue between the two senior diplomats, Islamabad said there would be a separate working group focusing on the core issue of Kashmir.

Both nations at the start of this week's dialogue pledged to carry the dialogue further. "Given the political will and sincerity of purpose we see no reason why this should not mark the beginning of a process which would ultimately lead to cooperative and good neighborly relations," Ahmad said.

India's commitment to the peace talks is "firm and unequivocal notwithstanding the complexities and difficulties which might present themselves from time to time," Raghunath said.

Bhutto's Swiss accounts frozen

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — Authorities in Switzerland have frozen the bank accounts of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, her husband Asif Ali Zardari and mother Nusrat Bhutto in connection with a corruption inquiry.

Senator Saifur Rehman, chairman of the prime minister's Accountability Cell, told a news conference Swiss police had blocked all bank accounts and safety deposit boxes owned by the three as of September 8.

"The Swiss authorities have seen solid evidence regarding their corrupt practices and accumulation of ill-gotten wealth by Benazir Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari, Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Hakim Ali Zardari [Zardari's father]," Rehman said in a statement.

He said authorities in Switzerland had promised to inform the Pakistani government about transactions that had taken place in the Swiss accounts before

they were frozen. They had also given instructions to block the bank accounts of four offshore companies owned by Zardari or Bhutto's mother and run by agents on their behalf, he said.

The Swiss government confirmed it had frozen the accounts of Bhutto and family members.

A spokesman for Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) denounced the government's Accountability Cell for what it called lies and fabrications.

"It is the latest in the series of slanderous attacks by the Ehtesab [Accountability] Cell which during the past six months had failed to come out with a single evidence or proof of corruption on the part of Benazir Bhutto or Asif Zardari," he said, in a statement issued at Bhutto's home in Karachi.

Bhutto, who is in Dubai on a private visit, was expected to arrive in Karachi late yesterday, PPP officials said.

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Red in the face

Bombay revelers throw red turmeric powder in the air as part of a ritual during the 10th and final day of this week's Ganesh festival in Bombay. Idols of Ganesh, the Hindu elephant god, will be immersed in the Arabian Sea.

(AP)

Questionable resources

A dubious Lebanese millionaire proves that Asian oil exploration may have a lot to do with US campaign finance

By DAVID B. OTTAWAY
and DAN MORGAN

WASHINGTON — When two top Democratic fund-raisers met oil financier Roger Tamraz for dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown on October 6, 1995, they faced a dilemma.

As a major donor who had already given \$95,000 to the Democratic Party, the dapper Tamraz wanted access to Vice President Al Gore and other senior administration officials to promote his vision of a \$2.5 billion pipeline carrying oil from the Caspian Sea region of Central Asia to Western markets. But Tamraz had just been pointedly excluded from a political breakfast with Gore after the Democratic National Committee received a scathing memo from Gore's office urging that the financier be shunned as "an American citizen with a shady and untrustworthy reputation." The conversation at the Four Seasons between Tamraz and his dinner companions — DNC finance director Richard Sullivan and finance chairman Marvin Rosen — rambled on about politics and pipelines before the two fund-raisers asked for a little more time to "clear things up" and overcome "some resistance" to getting him into the White House, according to Tamraz's recollection.

On Tuesday the subsequent success of DNC officials in overcoming that "resistance" could become

a central focus of the Senate investigation into campaign finance abuses before the 1996 election.

The public hearings will move into a new phase examining Tamraz's additional \$75,000 contribution, sent to the Virginia Democratic Party less than two weeks after the Four Seasons dinner at the request, according to two sources, of DNC chairman Donald Fowler.

Far from being ostracized, Tamraz was then admitted to four White House functions, including a dinner with President Clinton at which Tamraz touted his pipeline dream and the jobs it would bring to US pipe manufacturers.

While providing graphic evidence of the connection between money and access in the Clinton administration, the Tamraz saga also represents the intersection of campaign finance with the exotic, high-stakes race to exploit the Caspian's enormously lucrative oil reserves, estimated at 200 billion barrels. Tamraz himself holds two Caspian oil concessions believed to contain 1 billion barrels; his proposed pipeline route, angling west from Central Asia through Armenia and Turkey, would have been in direct competition with other routes now favored by a consortium of oil companies.

The effort to keep Tamraz out of the White House signaled the beginning of an intense struggle involving the US government and American oil companies eager to

ensure that Caspian oil is exported to the West, according to oil company executives and US officials.

Tamraz's contacts with White House and other government officials about his pipeline proposal are under investigation by a federal grand jury, which is seeking to determine whether anyone tried to bribe or pressure Clinton administration officials into supporting Tamraz's pipeline idea. The financier is also a fugitive from Lebanon, where he is wanted on 1989 charges of embezzling \$200 million — allegations he denies as deriving from Lebanese political rivalries.

Tamraz said his efforts in Washington were aimed at obtaining a "non-objection" from the administration for his project that would have put him on an equal footing with competitors and lent his project greater credibility with governments in the Caspian region. "To promote your name or to promote your project wasn't all that harmful. It was very positive," he said in one of several telephone interviews from Paris.

On October 3, 1995, the administration announced that it favored "multiple pipelines" for transporting Caspian oil, but carefully avoided endorsing any specific route. There is no evidence that the decision was linked in any way to Tamraz.

Almost from the moment he arrived in Washington to promote his plan in the spring of 1995, Tamraz confronted opposition from major oil company competitors and many administration officials, who made clear that they

viewed him as an unwelcome interloper in one of the biggest commercial bonanzas of the decade.

To combat his opponents, Tamraz, 57, turned to methods that had served him well in the past. Born in Egypt to Lebanese Christian parents, he grew up in a world of constantly shifting Middle East politics and intrigue in which personal connections to the rich and powerful are paramount.

In addition to contributing at least \$170,000 to Democratic Party organizations in the 1996 campaign, Tamraz rallied support from influential leaders in the Armenian American community such as Haroun Sassounian, a wealthy Californian, who presented the Tamraz pipeline project to Gore in an August 1995 meeting.

Tamraz also held discussions with Howard H. Baker Jr., the former Senate majority leader, now a Washington lawyer and Pennzoil director, about representing him in Washington. But the relationship soured when Pennzoil objected. Tamraz hired the Miami law firm of Rosen, the DNC finance chairman with whom he had dined at the Four Seasons — although he insists the legal issue had nothing to do with the pipeline.

Such maneuvers reflect the style of a lone operator who has repeatedly used the levers of money and high-level political connections over the past three decades to put together big projects, mainly in the Middle East and Western Europe.

See DONATIONS, Page 7

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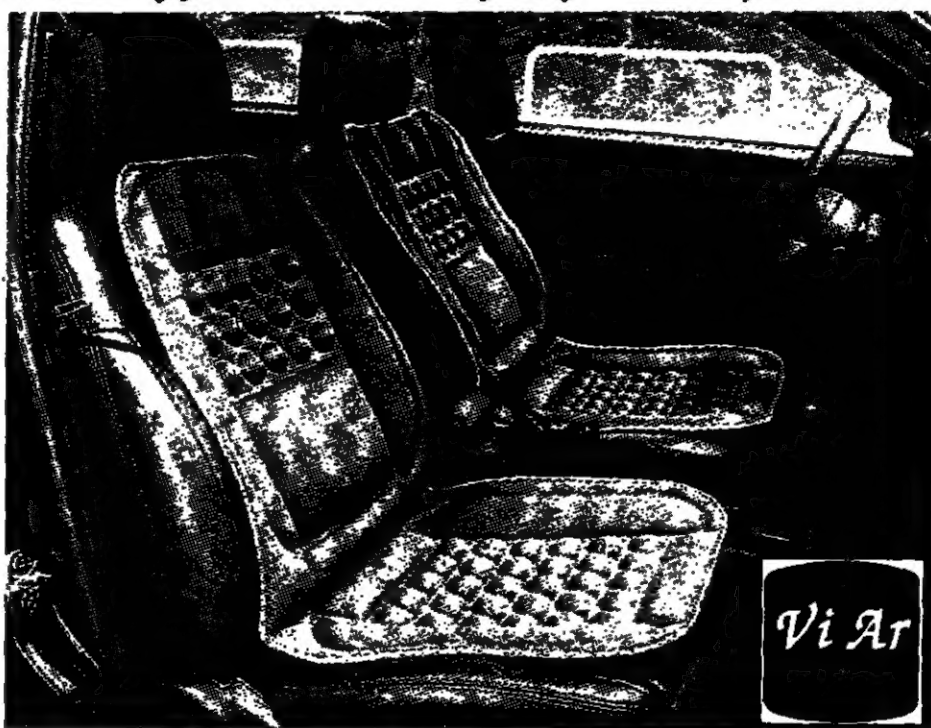
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Nurturing democracy

Kyrgyzstan's leader discusses life after the Soviets

By ROBIN WRIGHT

Askar Akayev rules over the Celestial Mountains. He runs a country with twice as many sheep as people and where the capital, Bishkek, is named after the national drink — mare's milk.

But Akayev, 52, a physicist turned into politics during Soviet perestroika, also leads the most democratic of the former 15 Soviet republics, a regional trendsetter with importance far disproportionate to its small size or population of 4.5 million.

Kyrgyzstan, once famed as a key section of the legendary Silk Road trade route linking Asia with Europe, again is gaining prominence as part of the new frontier between East and West.

Under Akayev, Kyrgyzstan is unique among the five predominantly Muslim Central Asian republics. It is increasingly referred to as the Switzerland of Central Asia because of its spectacular snow-capped mountains, its comparative political tranquility and the use of referendums as the most frequent means of deciding national issues. In 1995, Akayev was reelected in the region's first multiparty elections.

But Akayev and his country, nestled along the Chinese border, also have become the litmus test of problems for post-Communist societies — and the difficulty of dealing with the slow pace of progress.

The 15 former Soviet republics have been on their own for almost six years. What have been the highs and lows of breaking with the Soviet system and becoming an independent state?

Among the lessons of the transformation is what I call the collapse of illusions. The essence of this lesson is that both the West and the post-Communist nations naively expected too much in too short a time.

The ruling elites in post-Communist nations, including Kyrgyzstan, obviously had an exaggerated and simplistic idea about the kind of support they could receive from the West, including some kind of expanded Marshall Plan. And the West underestimated the systemic complexity of change and the degree of resistance from old and still powerful quarters.

American aid programs first assumed that this transition period would last five years. Today [former US national security adviser] Zbigniew Brzezinski writes about 10 years of transition for post-Communist countries. In fact, longer periods may be required.

Do you think the Kyrgyz, as well as people in other Soviet republics, really understand what democracy is? Are they yet engaged?

In Kyrgyzstan the politically active population does not exceed 5 percent. The political elites in our country are also still primarily made up of the second echelon of the former Communist Party and the state nomenklatura. Their aspirations and power have limited the reform potential. Their dream is to try one

way or another to concentrate power and property in their hands.

Yet our democracy has been rooted. Now I think most people understand democracy is the best way of organizing the state.

What about the crackdown on the media, specifically closing down two newspapers in Bishkek that were critical of you?

I'm in favor of a free press because it's my main means of explaining and implementing reforms. I've introduced two bills in Parliament to guarantee access to information and the professional activity of the press.

One newspaper was closed through a court proceeding because it was involved in anti-semitic propaganda. My legal adviser was Jewish and this paper said that the country is being governed not by the president but by Jewish advisers. I said this was a disgrace. The Jewish minority made a big contribution to the economic and cultural development of Kyrgyzstan.

If my image has suffered because of these things, then I am proud of it. Some of this dates back to my [1993] trip to Jerusalem. I regret to say that the adviser has moved to Germany.

The second paper was closed by the minister of justice as it engaged in pornography. Although 70 percent of Kyrgyz are Moslem, women have equal status with men and six of 16 members of cabinet are women. We are the only country in the world where the head of the highest constitutional court is a woman. But this is still not a culture that accepts pictures of naked women.

For the first five years, you followed Western advice and introduced the most ambitious economic reforms of the 15 republics. You even introduced your own currency, the som. Independent of the Russian ruble. Yet the World Bank recently said, "The economy has not yet generated a supply response." What went wrong?

Our CIS partners originally criticized our radical reforms and predicted Kyrgyzstan would collapse. Yet today every macro-economic indicator shows that we look better than any of the other 14 republics. And of all post-Communist countries, our progress is third only to Poland and the Czech Republic.

We still have three problems but we are making progress on each. The first is a considerable budget deficit, but it is steadily coming down from a high of 15 percent during the Soviet era to an estimated 6% this year. The second is inflation, which over the past two years was as high as 32 to 35%, but we expect it to decrease to 17% this year. The third is a negative balance of payments in trade. But we now have a favorable investment climate and many foreign companies are coming in.

(Los Angeles Times)

The CIA's transforming agenda

By WALTER PINCUS

WASHINGTON — CIA-run agents who infiltrated terrorist groups in recent years aided in intelligence gathering that helped prevent two attacks in the past seven months against US embassies abroad. This was divulged to Congress earlier this year by new CIA director George J. Tenet.

Tenet declined to provide details of the operations, or where they occurred. But in making even that minimal disclosure, he was signaling that while covert action remains a primary activity of the CIA in the post-Cold War period, there has been a departure from the spy service's often-criticized history of clandestine operations directed at influencing foreign government policies or attempting to remove political leaders.

According to agency officials, major covert operations are now being aimed at disrupting terrorist plans, stopping narcotics shipments or fouling up financial transactions of missile makers — actions, say sources, which reflect new threats that face US policy-makers.

For instance, computer-hacker technology has been used to disrupt international money transfers and other financial activities of Arab businessmen who support suspected terrorists.

Military research and development operations of hostile governments, such as North Korea, Iraq and Iran, have been sabotaged by having European, Asian and other suppliers sell them faulty parts that will eventually fail.

Other tools permit agents to "spike" exports and imports to and from rogue countries such as Libya and Iraq with extraneous matter — such as putting water in oil — to create dissatisfaction with consumers.

"In the past five to seven years, the sophistication of the new tools of covert action have helped bring about a sea change in operations from the old days," says a senior intelligence official. "These operations are easier to do and provide incremental successes. One shipment is stopped, another is sabotaged, we take down a terrorist cell; things like this are happening now

As the CIA approaches the 50th anniversary of its founding this week, the new approach marks an important shift in emphasis away from the type of covert actions for which the agency became famous and infamous.

"Covert activities involving exile groups or arming guerrilla fighters take a lot of time and attention and divert resources from developing a

special forces that later committed human-rights violations.

Agents recruited for intelligence gathering, rather than paramilitary operations, are "more disciplined," the official said, "and are not the same kind of people as exiles. They relentlessly gather intelligence on which we can act, giving us the option of using some new tools." Intelligence chairman Goss points

broadcasts from secret mobile transmitters and supporting exiles.

Some of these operations are under way because members of Congress want something done against such anti-American countries. One CIA official noted that House Speaker Newt Gingrich has made well-publicized demands that efforts be made to take stronger steps to undermine the Iranian government.

Such pressures worry intelligence veterans. "Little, dumb covert actions to get Congress off your back are bound to fail," said a former top-ranking CIA officer, referring to programs directed at Saddam Hussein over the past six years.

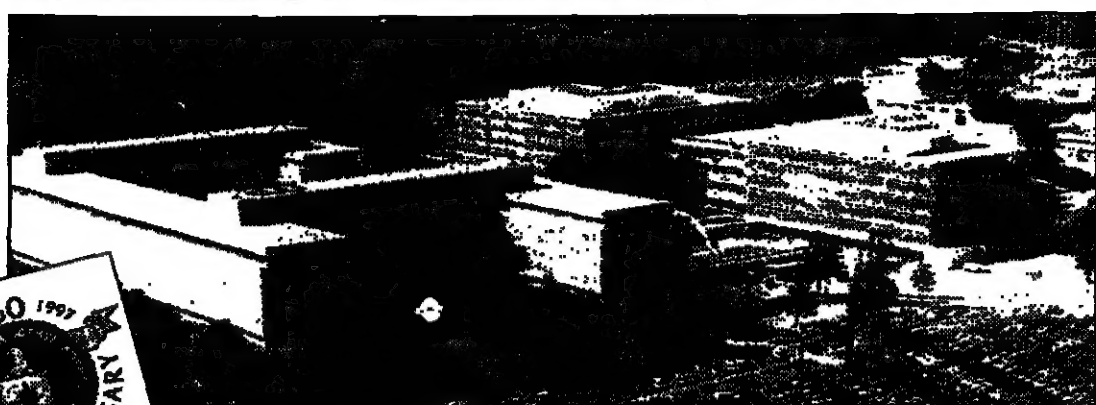
He was particularly critical of exiles from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq who worked the halls of Congress trying to gain support for their own groups and their efforts to regain power.

For most of the agency's history, covert actions were directed against the Soviet Union or communist governments and groups around the world. They attempted to influence another nation's government or policies through non-diplomatic means without revealing US participation.

In the late 1950s, CIA officials promoted the agency's role in turning the Palestinian and Iranian governments and fostered the impression — even among top policy-makers and non-professional CIA directors — that the agency could get rid of any leaders or government it wished.

Subsequent inability through years of covert actions to topple Fidel Castro or Muammar Gaddafi, while provoking criticism within successive administrations, did not prevent the agency from being described as the source of coups and guerrilla activities worldwide. Controversy over CIA operations in Central America in the '80s still rages.

(The Washington Post)



CIA headquarters in Washington, DC: As the agency approaches its 50th anniversary, emphasis shifts to new threats such as narcotics and terrorism. (U.P.P.A.)

every week," Rep. Porter J. Goss, the first chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to have served as a CIA case officer, says such operations, particularly in the area of counterterrorism, represent a new type of clandestine activity.

"There are a large number of hidden activities going on to meet transnational threats," he said, "but I'm reluctant to call them covert actions." Tenet, who spent much of his last two years as the No. 2 man at the agency studying covert operations, has mandated that intelligence collection, and not covert action, will be the principal requirement for the Directorate of Operations, the clandestine side of the agency.

base of agents who could be gathering intelligence on our hardest targets," one top agency official said. He added that the exiles in traditional covert activities directed at a country "can't be controlled, people get locked into political positions and often the payoff is negligible or can't be measured." The agency has been sharply criticized for its support of operations against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein by Iraqi exiles and former agency operatives which turned out to have disappointing results.

More criticism is expected for the agency's cooperation with drug dealers who were also aiding Nicaraguan Contra operations and for CIA agents training Honduran

impunity between his homes in France and New York.

US officials say the administration has taken no action against Tamraz because Washington has no extradition treaty with Lebanon.

Tamraz's interests turned to Caspian oil in the early 1990s, when he successfully bid for two concessions in Turkmenistan. Without a pipeline, the holdings were worthless.

Drawing on extensive contacts in Armenia and Turkey, he devised what he calls his "vision": a "peace pipeline" capable of carrying oil to a Mediterranean port in southeastern Turkey. The line he initially envisioned would cross Nagorno-Karabakh, the disputed enclave in Azerbaijan seized by Armenian forces in a bloody war that ended with an uneasy cease-fire in 1994.

In 1995, Tamraz launched his personal "shuttle diplomacy" between Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan and Turkey, pressing for both a firmer peace and support for his pipeline route.

But he ran into solid opposition from Azeri President Heydar Aliyev, according to Tamraz. "Nobody needed him," Hafiz Pashayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador to the US, said of Tamraz.

Nevertheless, Harry Gilmore, the US ambassador to Armenia, thought enough of Tamraz's efforts to sug-

gest that he contact the State and Energy departments. In early June 1995, Tamraz was granted a 20-minute meeting in Washington with the National Security Council's Caspian expert, Sheila Heslin.

Tamraz's proposal met a key objective of American policy, which favored construction of a main export pipeline from the Caspian Sea to the eastern Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, Turkey, via a route that avoided Russia and Iran.

It was also the most direct and least expensive of any route under consideration, according to many oil analysts. And Tamraz had lined up financing for the scheme in China and Europe. In August 1995, Bethlehem Steel also signed a "preliminary agreement" with his firm, Oil Capital Ltd., for 300,000 tons of pipe, the largest such order in the history of the company.

But six days after the meeting with Heslin, a Pennzoil executive wrote an angry letter to Tamraz, with copies to Heslin and other senior officials, complaining that Tamraz had circulated materials inaccurately implying that the company supported the project.

Tamraz, however, was also proceeding on other fronts. On August 8, at a DNC breakfast, his Armenian American supporter, Haroun Sassounian, outlined

Tamraz's pipeline project to Gore. On September 11 and September 15, Tamraz attended political functions with Clinton, and on September 18, the DNC recorded a \$50,000 contribution, bringing his total to at least \$95,000 to the party.

But on September 13, Gore adviser Leon Fuerth, following up on Gore's conversations with Sassounian, wrote a memo urging the vice president and other officials to avoid meeting Tamraz because "American oil companies do not consider him a reliable partner."

Senate investigators have evidence that Tamraz met Fowler on October 6, the day of the Four Seasons dinner. Tamraz said Monday he recalled no such meeting. Fowler has denied published reports that he contacted the CIA to urge the agency to make the NSC — which had blocked Tamraz's further admission to the White House — aware of his past services to the US government.

Despite such qualms, Tamraz was subsequently admitted to four more White House events.

Although Tamraz abandoned the idea of a pipeline across Armenia to Turkey at the end of last year, he is continuing to pursue the idea of an independently owned line that would go from Baku to the Black Sea.

(The Washington Post)

Workers' paradise?

By STEVEN MUFSON

BEIJING — Unpaid workers from eight ailing state-owned enterprises in Shanxi Province were so desperate earlier this year that they started stealing crops from nearby farmers. The farmers then came up with a plan: Lend the workers money to start businesses. But lacking special skills, the workers opened 39 karaoke bars where women who had worked in factories became prostitutes, charging \$25 per customer.

This sordid tale from the frontier of economic reform was captured in a videotaped account that circulated recently among China's senior leaders. It is only one example of growing worker desperation as China begins shutting down money-losing state enterprises and laying off laborers once hailed as the "masters" of the communist state.

"Once the workers had the money, and now they are literally prostitutes to local farmers," said Beijing-based researcher and political analyst Wang Shan.

On the eve of a major Communist Party congress, the plight of industrial workers in China's state-owned enterprises has grabbed the attention of Chinese leaders. As protests spread throughout the country, unrest has broken out on several occasions among workers who feel cheated by the government and left behind by China's economic miracle — incidents seen as signs of what might lie ahead as China forges on with the restructuring of state enterprises.

In March, in the Sichuan Province town of Nanchong, about 20,000 workers held a textile plant manager hostage until the government ordered a local bank branch to pay months' worth of back wages.

In July, paramilitary troops were summoned to Mianyang, also in Sichuan, to put down protests that started when the town's mayor failed to show up at a meeting where about 700 anxious workers from the Mianyang Silk Printing & Dyeing Factory were waiting to hear how the company's impending bankruptcy would affect them.

More trouble broke out this month in Sichuan. State enterprise workers in Dujiangyan forced into early retirement on meager pensions had gone to work as porters driving flatbed tricycles. When local authorities confiscated some unlicensed tricycles, hundreds of the workers staged a sit-in outside city government buildings. When city officials failed to show up for a meeting September 3, clashes broke out with about 100 riot police, exiled human rights groups said.

The rise in worker protests coincides with the government's drive to get rid of money-losing, state-owned industrial firms. About 70 percent of the country's more than 100,000 government-owned firms are losing money, and the losses

have grown steadily.

Ending the losses means cutting back on extra workers and trimming their costly cradle-to-grave benefits, known here as the "iron rice bowl." Managers and economists estimate about 30% of China's 113 million industrial workers no longer are needed. During China's current five-year economic plan, those mostly urban laid-off workers will have to compete with 72 million new job seekers and 40 million surplus rural laborers, according to Chinese government labor forecasts issued in May, adding to what an official newspaper called the country's "grave employment situation."

According to the World Bank, about 2 million surplus workers were laid off during 1996 in cities with pilot programs in enterprise reform. Total unemployment in all urban areas stood at 20 million people, the bank said. Government estimates put the urban unemployment rate at 3%, but most economists believe a more realistic estimate would be 7 to 8%.

"The big issue is how to take care of these people," said Beijing-based economist Fan Gang. The Communist Party congress, which convenes Friday, is expected to endorse accelerated reform of state enterprises. However, Fan said, "there will be a lot of things you can't do because you can't deal with the labor issue."

As a result, small- and medium-size state-owned firms will be the first to be restructured while action on big industrial dinosaurs with more than 10,000 workers will be put off, Fan predicted.

Caution and a booming economy have prevented labor unrest from being even worse. Some plant managers say they try to avoid laying off more than one person from a family. And many laid-off employees say they find better jobs elsewhere.

Chinese leaders have promoted job retraining schemes, but this might prove difficult. More than 70% of laid-off workers have less than a high-school education, according to government figures. More than 30% have been out of work for more than a year.

Among people still working for failing state-owned enterprises, anger is rising over wages that frequently go unpaid. In Tianjin last year, there were about a dozen serious incidents of worker protest.

It is an indication of the gravity of the financial and management problems in state-owned enterprises that China's leaders are willing to risk labor unrest despite their desire to maintain stability. The tide of red ink from those firms threatens to overwhelm the banking system with bad debts and the government budget with deficit spending to help cover subsidies. The state-owned enterprises also are draining investment from more robust parts of the economy. The state sector accounts for less than half of total output, but gobbles up about three-quarters of domestic investment.

(The Washington Post)

DONATIONS

Continued from Page 6

Tamraz was barely out of Harvard Business School when he put together a consortium in the 1970s to build a \$345 million pipeline linking the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean, overcoming Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's initial opposition.

For his efforts, Tamraz received a 5 percent share — worth \$15m. at the time — enough to launch his career as an independent operator. His first big success involved brokering a deal in the late 1970s between Japanese companies and the Saudi government to build a \$300m. methanol plant in Jubail.

In the early 1980s, Tamraz bought the Italian operations of Amoco and Texaco — 2,000 gas stations, a refinery and 960 kilometers of pipelines. From those holdings he created Tamoil, a company he sold to the Libyan government in 1985 for \$375m.

From the start, Tamraz cultivated contacts with influential officials, according to US and Lebanese sources. Thereafter, according to one former US intelligence official, Tamraz became a regular unofficial contact. For his part, Tamraz has often hired retired CIA agents as consultants and employees.

After the Lebanon war in 1982, CIA Director William J. Casey, exasperated by the slow pace of US-led negotiations, called on Tamraz to intercede with prime minister Menachem Begin to help accelerate an Israeli withdrawal.

Withdrawing, Tamraz said, was not only one of Lebanon's leading bankers but also was a close friend of the Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel, whose family had also lived in Egypt for a time. And Tamraz had ties to the right-wing Lebanese Christian militias allied with Israel. US and Lebanese sources confirm Tamraz's active role in trying to broker a peace deal.

The effort failed, and after Gemayel's term ended in 1988, pro-Syrian forces, hostile to Israel and Tamraz, came to dominate the Lebanese political scene. A rush on Tamraz's Al-Mashrek Bank in late 1988 forced its collapse; Tamraz fled the country after being kidnapped by a pro-Syrian faction and released for a \$7m. ransom.

As for the subsequent embezzlement charges leveled by Lebanese bank officials, Tamraz concedes he owes \$22m. in Lebanon but also asserts that \$163m. is owed him. Lebanese authorities have sought his extradition through Interpol but "no civilized nation" has taken the banking charges seriously, asserts Tamraz, who appears to move with

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The wrong neighborhood

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was right to assert that he would block a plan to build a Jewish enclave within the capital's Arab neighborhood of Ras al-Amud, and to call the action of four Jewish families that moved into homes in that neighborhood "not good for Jerusalem and not good for the country."

These families no doubt believe they are strengthening Israel's hand in the negotiations ahead. In reality, however, they are not only harming the cause of a united Jerusalem, but potentially providing relieving diversion to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat from the substantial pressure upon him to combat terrorism.

Ras al-Amud is one of a string of Arab neighborhoods across the steep Kidron Valley just outside the Old City of Jerusalem. The neighborhood is adjacent to the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, which according to Jewish tradition is the hill from which the Messiah will descend at the end of days and where Ezekiel will blow his trumpet to announce the resurrection of the dead. Christians believe that Jesus wept on the Mount of Olives when he foresaw Jerusalem's destruction, and Moslems believe that the Caliph Omar camped there while accepting Jerusalem's surrender in 638 CE. Now the latest page in this area's history is evidently being penned by a Miami-based real-estate tycoon named Irving Moskowitz.

There is no arguing that the mostly empty lot he bought lies in the heart of Jerusalem, and that almost all Israelis are committed to maintaining their capital whole and undivided. Nor is there argument that, from a legal point of view, the Jewish families have a right to live there and the Israeli government has no standard legal procedure to dictate that buildings on Moskowitz's private property remain vacant.

Still, a distinction must be made between other existing and planned Jewish neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem on the one hand, and Ras al-Amud on the other.

Since the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, so many Jewish neighborhoods have been built that there is now a Jewish majority even in the eastern portion of the city. Legally, there is no distinction between veteran neighborhoods like Ramot Eshkol or French Hill and the much more controversial projects of Har Homa and Ras al-Amud. Har Homa has become a political lightning rod mainly because it is the first such neighborhood to be built in the post-Oslo era, in which Jerusalem itself has been deemed a subject of negotiation.

Unlike all these other neighborhoods, including Har Homa, Ras al-Amud is a Jewish housing project that is not slated for an empty area (usually a hilltop), but for an empty lot within an Arab neighborhood. The only neighborhood in Jerusalem where Arabs and Jews live immediately next door to each other is Abu Tor, which is itself an artifact of the time when the city was divided over 30 years ago.

To decide, as a matter of policy, not to establish Jewish enclaves within existing Arab areas is no abrogation of the right of Jews to live wherever they wish in Israel. For now, this principle should hold not just in Jerusalem, but throughout the country, in recognition of the need for Jews and Arabs to live as peacefully as possible together in the same small land.

Of course, the goal of those who just moved into Ras al-Amud is not to promote Jewish-Arab harmony, but to assert Jewish sovereignty with their physical presence. Those involved would certainly shed no tears if their actions would derail the deal in the works to restart the peace process, which is expected to involve severe Israeli restraints on settlement activity; in fact obstructing that prospect is one of their likely goals. Regardless of that, when it comes to their principal goal of enhancing Israel's hold on Jerusalem they are making a tactical mistake.

By choosing Ras al-Amud to make their stand, Moskowitz's minions have opened a front in the battle for Jerusalem where Israel's case is weakest.

The main effect of this move is - for now - a public relations bonanza for Arafat, who can use Ras al-Amud to paint all Israeli building in eastern Jerusalem as an attempt to invade the hearts of Arab neighborhoods. Further, he can start cranking out the usual international resolutions against Israel to "change the status" just as a consensus has developed - even in Europe - that Arafat must crack down on terrorism once and for all.

Netanyahu, as much as he realizes that moving ahead now with Ras al-Amud is not in Israel's interest, is loathe to invoke the threat to public safety in order to evict the Jewish families. If they were evicted on such grounds, it could set a precedent that threats of violence would succeed at shaping Israeli policy in Jerusalem - an outcome the settlers themselves would want to avoid.

Netanyahu should therefore tell the settlers that he will evict them if need be, but that the goal he shares with them, namely a united Jerusalem, would be best served if they chose another place in which to make their stand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TOUGH LOVE

Sir, - Anyone who has had to deal with a difficult relationship knows that discipline is a major factor in how and whether it works. Habitual abusers of others and themselves, or children who are testing boundaries can often be done more harm by permissiveness than an honest and respectful insistence on mutual respect and adherence to basic ground rules. Tough love has a very clear message: I care about you, but your behavior is destructive to yourself and others, and therefore, unacceptable. Because our relationship is important to me, I cannot allow you to violate it. It's based on a desire to

preserve the relationship by adhering to agreements, values and principles. Without clear guidelines, relationships, especially those in which violence occurs on a regular basis, will end in disaster. The PLO and its constituent factions must stop terrorism in word and deed.

A tough-love position, though difficult to maintain initially, may, in the long run be the only solution. The result may be estrangement, separation and even divorce. But one can live with that - and survive.

Jerusalem.
DR. MOSHE DANN

DOUBT THE WISDOM

Sir, - We were surprised to learn from Allison Kaplan Sommer's report (Sept. 3) of Abraham Burg's "brainchild" to establish a new charitable organization called "The Israeli Spirit." We wonder from which source Mr. Burg has learned that the Israeli public is "primed and ready to raise money etc."

There may be bodies that provide statistics which prove the theory that the Israeli public gives less proportionally than Jews in the Diaspora, but we doubt the wisdom of such logic.

DRIVEN TO SUCH ACTS

Sir, - Susan Hattis Rolef (Sept. 9) recognizes that the terrorist attack on Rehov Ben-Yehuda is proof "of the existence of a people driven (sic) to such acts by distress, incitement, religious fanaticism"

I have been reading Rolef's articles for many years, but even she has never gone to such depths of

To couple the idea of yet another fundraising organization with the foolish idea to tell Jewish communities abroad not to support charitable endeavors in this country would be very unwise. To have Jewish communities worldwide that show their identification with Israel by giving support to Israel helps them to maintain contact with Israel and Judaism.

Jerusalem.
MANFRED VANSOON, OBE
President, B'nai B'rith Albert Einstein Lodge

DRIVEN TO SUCH ACTS

"understanding" of the murder of men, women and children. The Jerusalem Post is indeed very broad-minded and tolerant if it enables the publication of such a horrifying statement on its pages.

Jerusalem.
BEN SHUA

GOOD PROSPECTS

Sir, - Congratulations on the fine photograph of the mosaic inscription newly discovered at Caesarea (Sept. 10). It enables one to see that your transcription of the Latin text is wrong and that the remarks attributed to Leah di Segni are woefully at sea among the particular conventions of Latin epigraphy.

Before translation - one must check the reading of letters, the division of words and the expansion of abbreviations. Thus we find that the present text translates, as Werner Eck has indicated, "Good prospects to the assistants of the Office of Prison." This text is of importance to experts in Roman provincial administration and in interpreting the functions of the building under excavation. However, although it is a pious wish and it may relate to a prison in which St. Paul was held, the mosaic does not have any direct relations with St. Paul.

You provide a good service in reporting new archaeological finds to the public. If the supply of news is not to dry up entirely, archaeologists need your help to secure the maintenance of appropriate government budgets. Apart from academic values, the funding of excavation and conservation makes good infrastructural sense in stimulating the interest of pilgrims and tourists to come and to return to the Holy Land.

Jerusalem.
RICHARD P. HARPER
Director, British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem

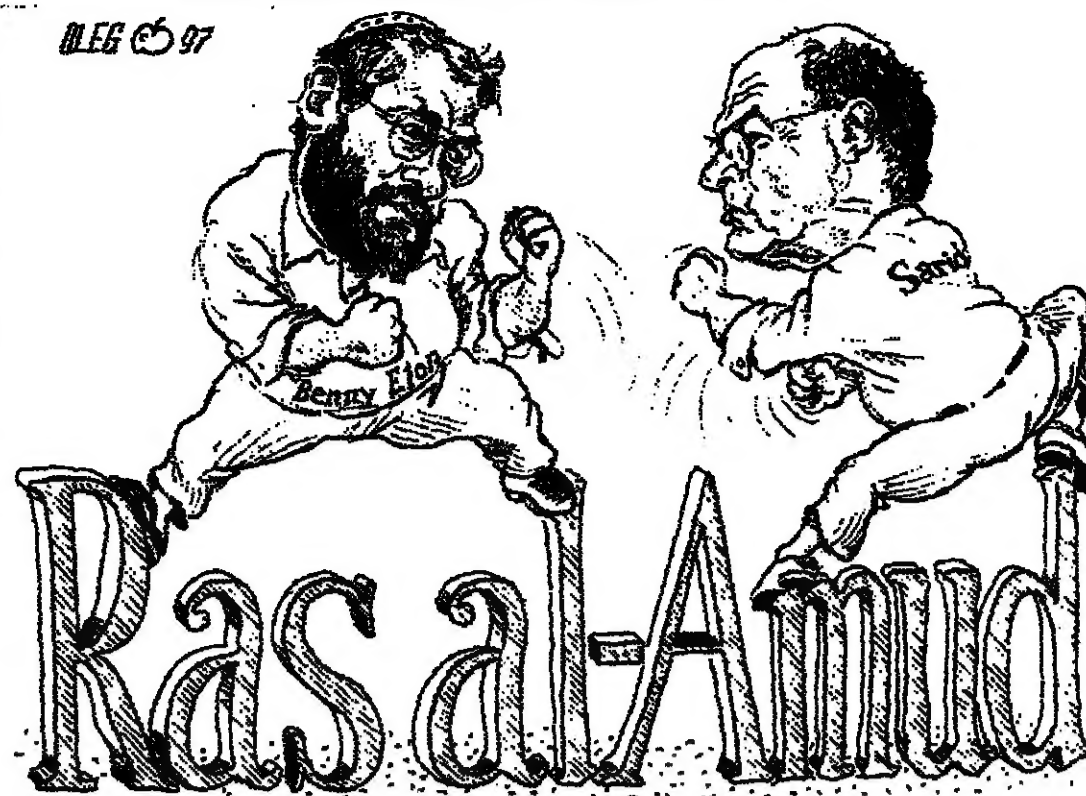
FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 16, 1937, The Palestine Post reported on the meetings of the League of Nations Council which discussed the report of the Permanent Mandates Commission on Palestine. The Council was addressed by the British Foreign Secretary,

Anthony Eden, who asked that his government be granted authority to work out the details of a settlement in Palestine along the lines of such schemes, if possible with the cooperation of representatives of both Jews and Arabs. He promised that no scheme would be put in effect

without the Council's approval. Sarah I, one of the largest remaining sailing ships afloat, and the first Jewish training ship in modern history, had evoked much enthusiasm and interest upon her initial entry into Palestine waters.

Alexander Zvielli



The Golan card

RUBY RIVLIN

With each additional victim, the question of whether Israel should stay in Lebanon gets raised again. Lately in particular, many feel that the price of remaining has become too steep to bear. Yet, as painful as it may be, the question is no longer a tactical one, as some of our leaders from the Right and the Left would have us believe, but one of strategy. It is no longer a case of Israel's making a unilateral decision to leave on a certain date, but involves much broader concerns. The time has long since passed when it was a question of redeployment along different lines within Lebanese territory (as Ehud Barak is suggesting), or of making changes in the IDF's methods of action.

Today the issue being weighed is the IDF's power of deterrence. Today we have to ask ourselves whether the fundamentalist threat - which is striking our civilian Achilles' heel along the border on one hand, while fighting us in Lebanon with experienced, well-trained and well-equipped military forces on the other - isn't becoming a real existential threat, as a result of the continuous and increasing erosion of our power of deterrence.

Here it is important to point out that Israel's deterrence capability is not merely a byproduct of the number of tanks, planes and fire-power at its disposal, but relies on the firm stance of Israeli society, and its willingness to pay the price of defending the country in general, and of being in Lebanon specifically.

When discussing strategic vision in relation to Lebanon, of course, it is Syria which is being referred to. The Lebanese government is a marionette, the limbs of which move according to the strings pulled in Damascus. In the past we learned that a separate peace agreement with Lebanon is not valid for more than a few days.

Over the last decade, we have watched Syria - which has been striving for years to gain strategic superiority over Israel - achieve a significant tactical advantage, which is spilling over into the strategic realm as well. Let's face it: Syria is holding us hostage in Lebanon. The Syrians are keeping

their shared border with Israel in the Golan totally quiet (a quiet which withstood even the test of the Lebanon War), all the while knowing that we are spurring blood in Lebanon, and losing our patience and stamina.

In the past, whenever Katyushas fell in the north, Israelis would say: "We are all Kiryat Shmona." But the Syrians have managed to cause a rift in this consensus and to arouse fierce public debate on the price of defending the North. This debate undoubtedly encourages our enemies preparing the "Jihad on Jerusalem" and who

Let's face it: Syria is holding us hostage in Lebanon

still - believe it or not - want to toss us into the sea. Nevertheless, this debate will not enable an endless continuation of bloodshed in Lebanon; certainly not while the IDF's hands are tied by the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which leave the setting of the rules of the game in the hands of the Syrians, without implementing the necessary equation, according to which if there is no quiet in Galilee, there will be no quiet on the other side of the border.

SYRIA must understand that it cannot shirk direct responsibility for what happens in Lebanon in general and in southern Lebanon in particular. The government of Beirut is not the only marionette in Lebanon whose strings are in the hands of Damascus. The Syrians not only control the routes of military supplies from Iran to the Hizbullah, but also directly control the freedom of the organization's operational activity. It is at their will that the grip is tightened and at their will that the rope is released. Also, we must keep in mind that the Hizbullah is the only organization in Lebanon not to be stripped of its weapons. The tragic incident involving the naval commandos served as further evidence of the operational cooperation between Hizbullah and the

Lebanese army, two long arms of Syria.

Yet the Syrians will not hear of any negotiations whatsoever - particularly in relation to Lebanon - without a promise of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. For us to say "no preconditions" in response is pointless. This is the reality in which we live.

The Golan Heights, of course, was never part of pre-state Eretz Yisrael. The Sykes-Picot treaty left it on the Syrian side of the border. It was occupied during a defensive war, and Israel has the right to hold onto it for many years to come, until peace is guaranteed in return. Yet even Israel itself has always made a distinction between the Golan and Eretz Yisrael proper.

This distinction was even expressed in the legislation which applied Israeli law to the Golan, which was ratified by the Begin government subsequent to the decision to withdraw from the Sinai. It was no coincidence that Menachem Begin - famous for his sensitivity to nuance - chose the term "application of Israeli law" and avoided using the terms "annexation" or "sovereignty" (unlike in east Jerusalem, for example).

Those well-versed in the Camp David Accords and in the relations between Begin and the Carter administration know that Begin made a commitment - both to the Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Knesset, and in a letter to Carter - that the Golan Law would not constitute a hurdle to future negotiations with Syria. The architect of the Camp David Accords, a jurist and whiz at formulation, certainly paid attention to the last clause of the agreement as well, in which it says that the agreement would serve as a model for future peace treaties between Israel and other countries.

We can thus see that the route home from Lebanon, as part of a stable arrangement, passes through Damascus. Many and varied possibilities exist for the designing of such an arrangement (adopting the Hong Kong model, for example), but the price of the deal is known at the outset.

The writer is a Likud MK.

An unholy alliance

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

gious majority lets the haredi and state religious establishments get away with financial corruption and waste, just because the latter are not averse to using political blackmail and odious accusations of "religious persecution," what will this majority do when, with

Left and Right can meet on containing the haredim

the help of funds attained from the state by often dubious means, the minority poses a real threat to the pluralistic and tolerant democratic system?

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman sought to make the religious services offered by the state more efficient and less wasteful. He also called to do away with the phenomenon of religious youths registering in one or more yeshivot in which they are not really students - thus allowing yeshivot to receive funds which are not due them while enabling thousands of young men to shirk military service and join the black economy.

Neeman's plan would not harm anyone seeking to devote his life to religious study. Much of what goes on today in the religious councils or in the attendance registers of many yeshivot, has nothing

to do with faith. And yet, when religious MKs yelled bloody murder and demanded that Neeman cut the funding of the universities and the arts rather than slash the overbloated bureaucracies of religious councils and cancel the lists of fictitious yeshiva students, few people as much as squeaked in protest.

And so, for the foreseeable future, the state will continue to pay not only for the survival but also the propagation of a system, and the perverted life-style that this system encourages, which no well-ordered democratic society should tolerate, and which threatens, in the long run, to destroy everything the majority - including religious folk like Yaakov Neeman - believes in.

Even if they cannot agree on anything else, it is high time Likud and Labor sign a pact calling for a thorough cleaning up of the state and the various religious establishments, and undertake to do so rapidly. Both parties, and a majority of the population, stand to gain from such an agreement if meticulously carried out. And in the long run, the religious establishments also stand to gain, since what the majority objects to is not so much the current balance between religion and state, but the growing corruption within the existing system.

The writer is a political scientist.

Boys & girls

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

At ease. We shall now have a very brief indoctrination course based on the US Army's new regulations having to do with sexual... relations between men and women... soldiers.

You will all have read that report, because copies were distributed in the mess halls. The figures given by the Army panel tell us that 47 percent of the female troops polled reported that they had experienced "unwanted sexual attention." Fifteen percent had experienced "sexual coercion" and 7 percent had been victims of "sexual assault."

Now granted, that adds up to a lot of you women... soldiers out there. Forty-seven plus 15 plus 7 equals 69 percent. [There is a titter in the ranks.] Quiet! But the report says that sexual misconduct is not "endemic." That means it doesn't exist everywhere in the Army. But it is obviously widespread: 69 percent is more than two-thirds, but remember it's not endemic.

The problem, according to the panel, is that we lack an "institutional commitment to the EO program." That's the equal opportunity program.

Any questions? "What's rape, sergeant?" [Titter.]

OK, legitimate question. That is "sexual assault." Private John forces himself on Private Letitia - obvious. Now one grade above that is "sexual coercion." That would be, well, if Private John kissed Private Letitia without permission, or tweaked her bottom, you understand.

Now one grade above that is "unwanted sexual attention." That's when Private John says to Private Letitia something like, "Oh, you really are built. Private."

"What if he says, Letitia, you smell real good today. Is that unwanted sexual attention?" That, er, would depend entirely on the way the comment was made -

"Would the way Cary Grant said it to Audrey Hepburn be

Women aren't naturally suited to soldierly life at barracks level

OK?"

Yes, I don't remember the movie, but I'm sure that would have been, well, yes.

"How about the way Robert Redford said it to Demi Moore?"

"I didn't see that one either, but I'd guess it was not OK." ... Now the Army panel came up with another finding, and it's my duty to pass that one on. Male soldiers have also been harassed sexually, though it's less in their case. Thirty percent reported "unwanted sexual attention," and 8 percent reported "sexual coercion."

"Was that a poll of gay soldiers? Whose attention were they complaining about?"

This is getting out of hand. We'll call it the end of the first indoctrination. Go back and reread the report, think about it and we'll have another rundown in the morning. Platoon Dismissed!

TO use the Army's exact language:

One finding: "The Army lacks institutional commitment to the EO (Equal Opportunity) program and soldiers distrust the EO complaint system."

This tells us that men have not acquired the habit of considering women soldiers as a natural development. It means that there are incongruities in female soldiering, that these have to be accommodated by differing schedules of physical training. It means also - or probably does so - that there is psychological wariness of common duty in combat.

One "conclusion": "The panel concludes that the human relations environment of the Army is not conducive to engendering dignity and respect among us."

Dignity and respect are what evolve from the nature of a relationship. The respect for the elderly is a cognitive act - they are weaker and need help. A respect for women is a tradition not unrelated to the special burdens of women and to the correlating attentions men need to pay to them. The dignity of women in part rests from their historical detachment from the coercive professions.

What the Army's gobbledygook neatly avoids is the clear language of common cultural sense. Women aren't naturally suited to soldierly life at barracks level. A pity such stuff can't be said by generals in 1997.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

A fertile peace that's good for business

Can Jordan's cheap labor, natural resources and access to Arab countries be integrated with Israel's know-how and Western market mentality? Jennifer Friedlin accompanied a group of Israelis across the border to find out.

Long before Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement, Refaat Zahran knew the value of Israeli produce. Years ago, the Jordanian farmer and industrialist managed to smuggle two Israeli grape stems over to his farm near Amman. From them he developed healthy, fruit-bearing vines.

Sitting outside his farmhouse recently, serving the plump green grapes to a handful of visiting Israeli farmers, Zahran said he longs for more than just a couple of vines.

Like many Jordanian businesspeople, he is hoping that a fertile peace between the two neighboring countries will help cultivate increased bilateral business agreements, joint ventures and trade.

"It's time our countries started to work together to build peace and business," said Zahran. The 24-year-old, heir to his father's industrial conglomerate, was one of several Jordanian industrialists to host the Israelis during a recent trip across the border.

The trip was organized by Zvi Shorer, a Beit She'an-based businessman and founder of Lahav She'an, an organization that works to promote peace with Jordan by encouraging and developing joint academic and business projects. The Jordanian and Israeli delegates were meeting to discuss the possibility of integrating Jordan's cheap labor, natural resources and access to the Arab countries with Israel's know-how and Western market mentality.

"It's a natural combination," said Shorer, whose organization receives financial backing from US and European individuals and institutions. At least 10 Israeli textile companies, including Delta Galil Industries and Castro, have already set up shop in Jordan, where labor costs about \$150 per month per worker, compared to nearly \$1,000 in Israel. Now smaller, independent businessmen and farmers are looking to see what opportunities lie across the river.

Squatting and rubbing Zahran's soil through his farm-worn fingers, Johanan Maoz, general manager of

Valley Farmers Center in Migdal Ha'emek, said he was impressed by the potential the Jordanian's land offers. Not only does Zahran have 500 dunams of undeveloped land, he also has water, scarce and expensive in Israel. It courses under the soil and is fully controlled by the Zahran family.

"The land looks good," said Maoz, as he packed up arid soil and water samples to take back to Israel for quality checks.

Jordan's cheaper resources and access to the Arab world could be a boon for the troubled Israeli agriculture industry. And the knowledge of people like Maoz, a specialist in herb growing, could enable Zahran to grow high-quality foods for export.

"It could take us 100 years to get to the technological stage the Israelis are at," said Zahran. "By finding Israeli partners, we can reduce this time."

Other Jordanians, like Isaa Matalaka, would then be interested in transporting the goods between Jordan, Israel and the Arab countries. Already, Matalaka says, his trucks are entering Israel, picking up goods in Haifa and bringing them back across the border before setting out for other Arab states. Several Arab countries already import Israeli high-tech and pharmaceutical products via Jordanian channels.

Since Jordan's industrialists tend to have a wide range of holdings, one business connection can sprout into a number of ventures. Take Matalaka: For him, transporting goods across the Sheikh Hussein passageway is just one aspect of the relationship he hopes to develop with Israel. He is also interested in a joint venture with an Israeli

fruit-juice and concentrate manufacturer.

"We're looking for an Israeli partner with expertise," he says, "and in exchange, they will own a stake in the company and produce juices under their own name." Such an arrangement, he adds, is not only a good business proposition, but an auspicious opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

"We've been fighting with each other for the last 50 years," Matalaka says. "Now it's time to contribute what we can and make peace."

Peace via economic integration has always underscored discussions on how to create harmony in the Middle East. During the Lahav She'an group's day-long visit to Jordan, the theme emerged with regularity. Talking to each other like mem-

bers of a family who have reached the conclusion that, like it or not, their futures are inextricably linked, the Jordanians and Israelis tried to steer clear of politics and evaluate the positive things their former enemies now have to offer.

Yet much as people on both sides would like to combine Israel's intellectual property with Jordan's physical assets, political problems and psychological barriers still threaten the blossoming relationship.

Jordanian red tape is frustrating at best and insufferable at worst, dissuading some Israeli entrepreneurs from entering the market. Border delays, for example, have caused shipments of produce to rot. And farmers in Israel fear that cheaper, Jordanian-grown produce will compete with Israeli goods on local supermarket shelves. They also worry that they will lose con-

trol over their know-how.

During one of the Lahav She'an meetings, a Jordanian businessman began talking about some Israeli onions he had received through back channels via the West Bank. As it turned out, one of the Israeli delegates, farmer Jeremy Haham, had developed the high-tech onion, which is used to spawn crops. Realizing what had happened, the Jordanian promptly offered Haham 1,000 dunams to grow his onions — plus all the profits for the first year.

Haham was caught in a bind. While such a deal would help him exercise control over his know-how in the future, Haham, who speaks fluent Arabic, admits that his uncertainty about the Jordanians' motives taints his attitude toward working with them.

"This is the Negev the way it was 50 years ago," he said. "If he gives me the desert, why should I develop it for him?"

For many people the answer is clear: Money.

"If it's not Yankel farming in Jordan today, it'll be Moshe doing it in two weeks," said Zvi Avner, agricultural research and development manager from the Beit She'an Valley Regional Council.

And so, despite the bureaucratic difficulties and geopolitical fears, Israel's Yankels and Moshes are developing business ties with Jordanians. Entrepreneurs like Oniel Schmeller, general manager of Congro, feel that the combination of Jordan's resources and proximity and Israel's know-how means sure-fire success.

"This could be the Middle East's Silicon Valley — and not just in high-tech," said Schmeller, who operates trade offices in Jordan and participates in joint ventures in infrastructure. "I don't think either side is doing enough to exploit this potential."

Foreign corporations are also sitting up and taking notice of the regional potential. Nissio Iwai, Japan's sixth largest conglomerate and the 13th biggest worldwide, will begin conducting feasibility studies for a railway line running from the Israeli side of the Dead



Natural partners: A friendly handshake between farmers Jeremy Haham (left) and Refaat Zahran.

Sea to the Red Sea via Jordan.

For other conglomerates the wider regional opportunities are the only reason to invest in Israel. During a recent visit here, Westinghouse/CBS President Jack Tyman expressed his concerns about the stalemate in the peace process. For US companies, he said, Israel is only interesting if it can serve as a springboard to the wider Middle East.

"To get into markets we need economies of scale," he said. "For

[the Middle East] market to become one of the emerging markets of the 21st century, it must reorganize."

Political wheels may turn more slowly than local and international businesspeople would like, but there are definite signs of improvement in the commercial relationship between Jordan and Israel.

Last year, bilateral trade with Jordan totaled \$13.8 million. In the first six months of this year, two-way trade was \$12.7m.

"Trade is certain to grow as peo-

ple on both sides get to know each other better," said a Ministry of Industry and Trade representative from the Middle East desk.

And people like Lahav She'an organizer Shorer, who returned to Israel with a \$40,000 joint-venture deal to establish a turkey farm in Jordan, said that even with all the starts and stops, the two countries will continue to deepen and strengthen their business ties. As a result, peace will flourish. "There's no alternative," he said.

A museum & a mission — to open minds

The Jewish Museum in Bratislava, Slovakia, has a simple mission, a museum worker says: "To give the idea that this other religion exists." For many Slovaks, museums may be the most accessible means to learning about Judaism. There once were 100,000 Jews in Slovakia. Today, the nation of 5 million people has just 3,000 Jews.

Still, intolerance of Jews lives on. The museum, opened in 1990 as part of the Slovak state museum, allows schoolchildren and others a glimpse of ritual objects, photos and letters documenting the World War II deportation of Slovak Jews.

It's a small step toward tackling prejudice. Jews across Eastern Europe hope that if they can get some moral support from their governments and reach out to the young, they can cut the strand of antisemitism that runs from generation to generation. The problem of antisemitism reaches far beyond Eastern Europe. Here stereotypes are broader, including an affinity for communism dating back to the birth of the ideology in the 19th century. The stereotype of the Jewish commissar is added to the older view of crafty, inscrutable Jews wearing caftans and jabbering in incomprehensible Yiddish.

Jews across Eastern Europe are reaching out to the young in an attempt to cut the strand of antisemitism that runs from generation to generation

Many Holocaust survivors who remained in Eastern Europe after the war felt they would be protected best by those who fought the fascists: the communists. They joined communist parties in great numbers — but failed to find safety.

Across the region, Communist Party leaders tightened their grip on power through purges that had perceived enemies face charges of sabotage or treason in widely publicized, rigged trials. Jews — seen by communists and nationalists alike as alien — became a handy target for attack.

In Poland, the antisemitic campaign of 1968 forced 25,000 Jews to emigrate. Still, the topic of antisemitism was considered taboo under the ideals of communist society. Then the collapse of communism in 1989-90 freed media from censorship. Criticism of Jews, ranging from subtle to outspoken, once

again entered political debates and polite conversation alongside anti-communist invective.

Newly visible antisemitism may be part of a general search for identity in post-communist Eastern Europe, where people look to the past for models of the future.

In Slovakia, there has been a campaign to rehabilitate Jozef Tiso, the Catholic prelate who led the nation in 1939-45 and approved the deportation of some 80,000 Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

The postwar communist regime executed Tiso in 1947, accusing him of treason for having run a Nazi puppet state. But the Slovak Ministry of Education recently distributed schoolbooks glorifying Tiso as a Catholic and national hero, while belittling Jewish suffering. The book was supplemented by another, more balanced textbook only after Jews pub-

licly protested.

In Poland, radio station Maryja broadcasts antisemitic diatribes: callers urging voters to reject a Jewish presidential candidate or denouncing the government as being controlled by Jews. Also, for the first time, small extremist groups are explicitly looking to Nazism as a model.

Graffiti on a wall near the Nozyk synagogue in central Warsaw says: "Juden Raus" — Jews Out. Six-pointed Stars of David hanging off gallows are scrawled nearby. Jewish cemeteries are desecrated across the region, especially around Easter — but so are Christian cemeteries.

Katalin Deme, a worker at Bratislava's Jewish Museum, said she feared more frequent and violent outbreaks of antisemitism as Slovakia's political infighting gets worse.

But Jewish leaders are less worried about antisemitic manifestations, which they say can happen anywhere, than by officials' reluctance to condemn them.

"We need an open declaration that we're against this, that it's undemocratic," said Juraj Stern, the rector of Bratislava's Economic University and president of the local chapter of B'nai B'rith. So far, he said, the Slovak government hasn't done that. (AP)

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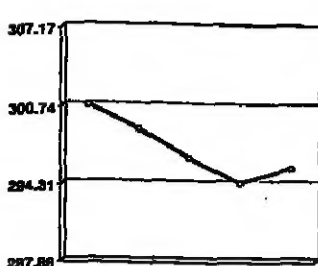
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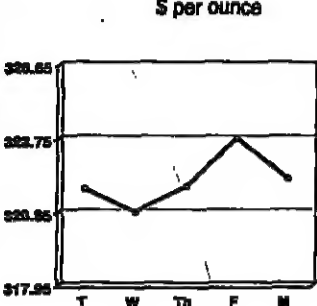
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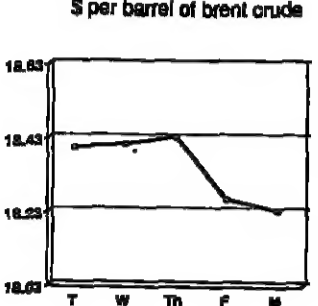
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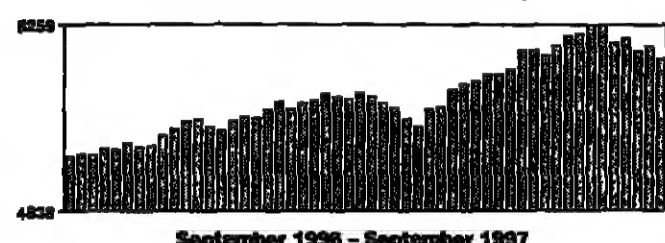
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Brodet named United Mizrahi Bank's chairman

United Mizrahi Bank yesterday named David Brodet, former director-general of the Finance Ministry, as the bank's chairman. Earlier this year the government sold 25 percent of UMB, the country's fourth-largest commercial bank, to Moshe Wertheim and Yuli Ofer, who had already purchased 26% of the bank in 1994. The government holds now 46% of the bank, with 3% held by the Mizrahi movement.

Dan Gerstenfeld

August CPI rises 0.4%

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The August consumer price index rose a lower-than-expected 0.4% to 152.3 points, compared to 151.7 last month, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

The index was offset by a seasonal drop in the price of clothing and shoes, while its appreciation was attributed primarily to price increases for food and produce.

Inflation during the first eight months of the year ran at 6.4%,

reflecting an annual inflation rate of 9%-10%, which falls within the government's target of 7%-10%.

Analysts said that the August index reflects the slowdown in the depreciation of the dollar, rather than the Bank of Israel's decision to raise interest rates last month.

"Experience shows that when the dollar depreciates, the index goes up, and when it appreciates, the index goes down," said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities. "Interest rates go up and down, but we've had a rough-

ly 10% rate of inflation for the past four years."

After cutting interest rates by 1.2% in June, the Bank of Israel raised the rate by 0.7% to 13.4% last month, due to inflationary pressures. Despite the lower-than-expected August CPI, the Bank of Israel isn't expected to lower interest rates this month.

In August, the cost of food and produce rose 1.2% and 5.1%, respectively, while the cost of clothing and shoes dropped by 5.8%.

Housing prices rose by a lower-than-expected 0.2%. The cost of maintaining a home rose 0.6%, due primarily to a 2.2% increase in the cost of gas and a 1.3% increase in the cost of painting an apartment.

The cost of healthcare services and medications rose 0.7%, due to a 1.8% jump in the cost of medical treatments, a 1% increase in the price of health insurance, and a 2.1% rise in the cost of old-age homes. The price of sunglasses, however, dropped by 1.4%.

ANZ Banking to open TA branch

By DAN GERSTENFELD

ANZ Banking Group Ltd., Australia's second largest bank, will open a representative office in Tel Aviv, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

Earlier this year ANZ became the first foreign bank to offer retail services in Israel, through its branch on Jerusalem's Salah al-Din Street.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel met with Charles Goode, ANZ's chairman, in Jerusalem yesterday.

In a statement, the Bank of Israel said the governor and the chairman "discussed the possibility of further widening the bank's activities in Israel."

The two expressed their wish that the Australian bank would act as a bridge for commerce between Israel and financial and business organizations in Asia and other parts of the world where the bank is active.

The bank, which has more than \$100 billion in assets, is active in 41 mostly Asian countries.

When ANZ opened its Jerusalem branch it said it would focus on winning corporate and institutional business across the Middle East, which is why it chose to locate in an Arab section of Jerusalem.

Israeli bankers hope the bank will help speed up cooperation between Israel and the leading Asian financial centers, given ANZ's interests in China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Foreign banks' presence here is still limited, and remains focused on corporate business, share-offer underwriting, and other non-retail activity.



'New York Times' goes color

'New York Times' pressmen examine prototypes of color sections at the paper's new \$350 million plant in Queens on Friday. The paper began running color in two sections yesterday and will introduce color on the front page next month.

(AP)

Group plans high-tech jobs for haredim

By DAVID HARRIS

Thousands of jobs can be created for haredim men and women in the high-tech field, according to a proposal presented to Finance Minister Yehoshua Neuman, by the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy.

The scheme would encourage haredim to telecommute, working either from home or in a local "telecenter," based in a yeshiva for men, seminary for women or community center.

Jobs would be principally in the field of computer programming, where there is a considerable shortfall.

The training could be conducted in a similar manner, according to the center's Israel head of multimedia clusters Arie Maharshak.

"We are at the earliest stages of contact with the haredim community regarding the program," said Maharshak. "We have already talked with [Labor and Social Affairs Minister] Eli Yishai, but that was more to do with telecommuting for disabled people."

The center, established by leading US economist Michael Porter, sees several advantages in the scheme it is proposing.

• There is no need for mixed-sex workplaces.

• People can work within their own family and community, integrating their jobs with

other activities, including religious study.

• There is a pool of human resources currently untapped that could be utilized to end the shortfall in the programming industry.

• The employment would considerably reduce the haredim community's dependency on public funding.

• Working for a wage will help reduce social and financial gaps between haredim and the rest of the population. The image held of haredim by others in the population will improve as a result.

The center is recommending that the scheme initially be introduced in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak, Safed, Ofakim, Dimona and Netivot.

Soros favors Scitex-Indigo proposed merger

Globes News Service

US magnate George Soros, who holds a 26 percent stake in Indigo, supports the company's proposed merger with Scitex, sources close to the company said yesterday.

Soros reportedly told Indigo's controlling shareholders as well as IDB, the main shareholder in Scitex, that such a deal would help the companies to improve their financial results.

The Recanat family, which controls IDB, also supports the merger, the sources said.

However, Scitex chairman Dov Tadmor expressed reservations concerning the feasibility of the move. In discussions inside the company, Tadmor said it is worth waiting for Scitex's reorganization to bear fruit, and then to examine the merger option.

Last year both Scitex and Indigo implemented restructuring plans, including layoffs and changes in senior management.

Institutional investors holding significant shares of both companies have approached the managements of the companies, recommending the acceleration of the merger process.

Among the institutional investors are foreign pension fund managers, who acquired tens of millions of dollars in Scitex and Indigo shares in the past year, as well as Israeli institutional investors, worried about the two companies' long-standing losses.

In the four-quarter period ending in June of this year, Scitex posted losses of \$178 million, while Indigo lost \$80m.

While leading shareholders may support the proposed merger, insiders say that the deal has become a battle of egos.

Should the merger be implemented on a one-for-one-share basis, then Indigo chairman Ben Zion Landa would emerge the controlling shareholder in the company.

Landa has a 57% stake in Indigo, while the Recanat family has a 26% holding in Scitex.

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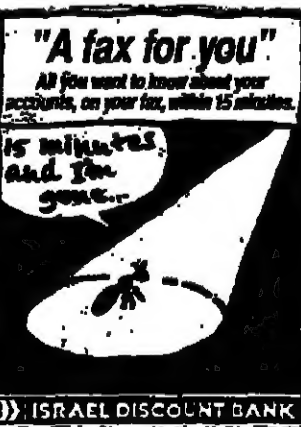
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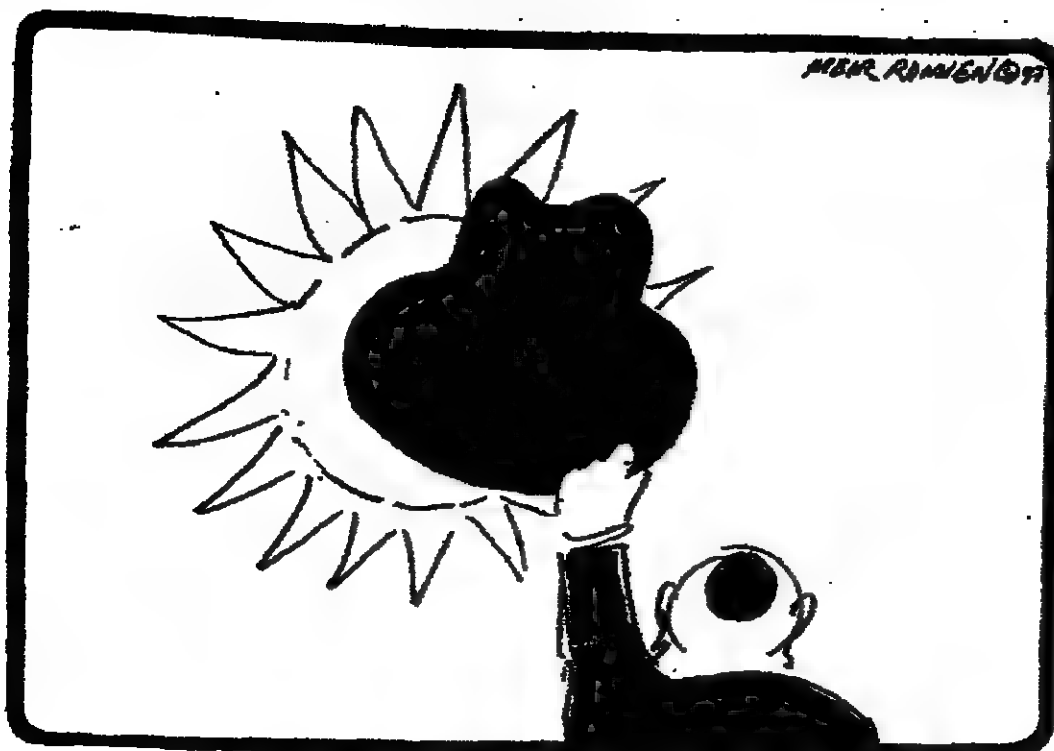
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Sixty years of store-hood

From a socialist network of food stores to a publicly traded company comprised of supermarket and retail chains, the history of Co-Op mirrors that of Israel

By RACHEL NEMAN

This week, the supermarket chain known familiarly as Co-Op celebrated its 60th birthday in a gala ceremony that took place at the Ramat Gan stadium. The company's 6,500 employees and their families, Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky and a host of entertainers were all in attendance.

Weathering 60 years is reason enough for Co-Op, known today as the TASE-listed Blue Square Properties, and subsidiary to the Wall Street-listed Blue Square Israel, to celebrate. Like the State of Israel, the company has adapted its socialist roots to full-blown capitalism, becoming Israel's largest retailer, both in terms of sales (NIS 809.1 million in second quarter '97) and number of stores (150).

The origins of Co-Op are rooted in the incorporated cooperative grocery store set up for workers by workers in Givatayim's Borochov neighborhood in the early 1920s. The idea behind the store, to provide basic foodstuffs at a reasonable price, already existed in Europe and was imported to pre-State Israel. The first Tel Aviv cooperative store, from which the present-day company dates its founding, was opened by Histadrut members in 1937 on Reines Street, and other *razchaniyot* (the term applied only to cooperatives at that time), soon followed.

Co-Op was not Israel's first supermarket — that honor is reserved for Super-Sol — but an affiliation of neighborhood cooperatives, some operating out of people's apartments and open only to members, who purchased shares at 1 lira each, payable in 10 10-agorot installments. (This was a lot of money at the time. A bank clerk, for instance, earned 10 lirat a month.) Today, the company refers to this as its first credit payment plan. In 1945, the cooperatives had 26,000 members and sales turnover represented 3 percent of Israel's retail trade. Today, by contrast, the company's retail trade share is 36%, and there are 44,000 members.

During the first decade of the State of Israel, the years of postwar rationing, the cooperatives' business was based mainly on ration books. The cooperatives flourished during this period; while grocery stores took advantage of customers, cooperative members were guaranteed fair prices.

In the 1950s, Yehoshua Rabinowitz, then deputy mayor of Tel Aviv and general manager of the city's cooperative, purchased many of the plots of land that have become the present-day company's most vital asset. This includes the Yad Eliahu location, bought before any bridge was built over the Yarkon. Rabinowitz also orga-

nized centralized wholesale buying for the separate cooperatives, to help fight price-gouging.

In the 1950s, the separate cooperatives began to reorganize along city lines: Jerusalem, Haifa, Kiryat Ono, Tel Aviv, etc.

At the end of the decade, Super-Sol opened Israel's first supermar-

SMART SHOPPING



ket on Tel Aviv's Ben-Yehuda Street. The Tel Aviv cooperative's Supermarket Shefa Chen opened in Dizengoff Square in 1962. Throughout the '60s and '70s, the cooperatives were affiliated with the Histadrut through holding company Hevat Ovdim (though the Histadrut owned no shares) and operated through the Israel Consumer Cooperative, part of an international 28-nation federation of consumer cooperatives.

In 1967, the cooperatives received permission from the international entity, Consumers Cooperative Union-Central Cooperative Society, to use the international name Co-Op which was adopted by all local cooperatives.

The creation of today's Blue Square took a little over 20 years to accomplish. The late '60s marked the beginning of local mergers, but larger mergers happened in the early '70s, intended to create stronger organizations against the growing supermarket trend. The first important milestone was the 1958 merger of the Kiryat Ono cooperative with the Bnei Brak cooperative. Tel Aviv took over Bat Yam, Holon, and southward to Eilat. The Dan Hasharon cooperative took over Hadera and northward up to Haifa.

In 1972, Co-Op Tel Aviv Consumer's Society merged with Dan Hasharon Consumer's Society. In 1992, the merged company changed its name to Co-Op Blue Square Consumers' Society and created an affiliation with the Co-Op of Jerusalem. Co-Op Tzafon also did not merge with Blue Square, but was renamed Co-Op 1 and merged instead with Hyperhuk.

Co-Op's interests in the north, however, includes Kiryat Shmona, Haifa and its environs, Tiberias and Karmiel. And there are still a few more to be conquered.

Only in the first quarter of this year was Co-Op's Ra'anana chain of six markets acquired, after several years of infighting. Co-Op, today officially called Blue Square Properties and Investments, has a labyrinthine corporate family tree filled with kissing cousins, but unlike most Israeli concerns, is not comprised of sister, daughter and

granddaughter companies.

Instead, its national system developed from local ones. For example, in 1992, Blue Square Properties took over 100% of Hamashbir Central Cooperative Society for Supply, via three cooperative societies belonging to Hamashbir: Tel Aviv, Hadera and Ashkelon. On paper, each was incorporated separately into the Blue Square group but in practice, they operate as a unit.

Today, the Blue Square group includes five supermarket chains totaling 90 supermarkets: Super Co-Op, Hyper Co-Op, Super Center, Zil v'Zol, and Shefa Mehadim, as well as Hamashbir Lezarchan, Marks and Spencer, Bon Mart and Home Center. It has partnerships in Co-Op Pharm, Mothercare and ID Design. Blue Square Israel recently received the license to market Ikea furniture in Israel. The first store will open in 1998.

Benny Gaon, today chairman of Koor, served as general manager from 1981-88 and is credited with transforming Co-Op into a modern chain, converting the groceries into supermarkets, changing Co-Op's marketing concept and hiring practices, introducing modernization and changing the overall corporate culture.

In the past, when in need of more funds, Co-Op had appealed to members to increase their share in the cooperative. But in the early '80s, Gaon laid the groundwork for a public offering. Co-Op became a limited company called Blue Square Israel, whose subsidiary, Blue Square Properties and Investments, issued bonds on the TASE in 1988. (As a cooperative, the parent company could not go public.) That same year, Gaon moved to Koor, and Yoseph Rosen took over as general manager. Gaon continues as chairman of the board, and still has a say in company management.

In 1991, Blue Square Properties issued NIS 37 million in shares and options to the public on the TASE, of which its workers bought NIS 3.5m., under special conditions.

In 1993, Rosen left Co-Op and Ya'acov Gelbard became the general manager.

In 1996, parent company Blue Square Israel floated shares on the New York Stock Exchange, one of the few Israeli companies to trade on that market.

In a sense, Blue Square Israel still remains true to its roots: the bulk of shares (70%) still belongs to its historic shareholders, or their heirs. Shareholders, along with their 2% discount on groceries and voting rights, feel they have a vested interest in a company that remains ideologically committed to workers' rights, within the constraints of profit-making. Just your everyday socialist-cum-capitalist concerns, so like those of the Jewish state.

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BITS & BYTES

BackWeb introduces Microsoft Internet explorer channel: BackWeb Technologies has announced the availability of the Microsoft Internet Explorer Channel, a channel utilizing BackWeb's push technology to deliver targeted Internet Explorer 4.0 information, content and software updates to users. The channel, which is now available for subscription, enables BackWeb users who do not have Internet Explorer 4.0 to receive up-to-date software downloads and information about Microsoft's newest browser.

Barak to market Rainbow's products: Barak Software Marketing in Tel Aviv will be Rainbow Technologies, Inc.'s new distributor in Israel. Established in 1984, Rainbow Technologies, is a leading developer of software protection solutions and provider of network license management, Internet and information security.

Serving customers in more than 100 countries, Rainbow's products are sold directly from its offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and through a network of authorized distributors in over 45 countries.

ComView Graphics raises \$2 million: ComView Graphics Ltd., a manufacturer of multimedia turkey systems for the advertising industry, raised \$2m. from the Israel Private Equity Fund L.P. and Comsol Investment Fund. The financing completes a financing round of \$3m., following an April closing of \$1m. from private investors. ComView, founded in 1996 by Meir Aloni and Amir Rosenthal, employs proprietary technology to create unique multimedia solutions.

NetGuard's firewall product wins editors' choice award: NetGuard Ltd., a subsidiary of LanOptics Ltd., recently

announced that the UK edition of PC Magazine selected Guardian Firewall as the Editors' Choice for a Windows NT Firewall. The October 1997 issue said that Guardian is the most intuitive, easiest to deploy and reasonably priced NT Firewall. Guardian Firewall protects the private network against sabotage, unauthorized access, intrusions and other threats initiated from the Internet.

Wizcom raises \$2m.: Wizcom Technologies, the developer of Quickionary, a pen that translates words, has announced the completion of a \$2m. private placement from an undisclosed foreign investor. The money will be used to develop products and help the company increase production in order to meet orders in Europe and locally. Wizcom currently markets its product in Germany, Australia, France, Switzerland, Belgium and Israel. Quickionary recognizes more than 300,000 words.

Putting a collar on cow theft

A small Israeli start-up has developed a high-tech solution to an age-old and costly problem — cattle rustling

By MICKY BLACKBURN

In the days of the Wild West, cattle farmers had to camp out by their herds at night if they wanted to catch the thieves who tried to steal their livestock. Today, electronic fences have replaced night-long vigils, but the problem of cattle rustling hasn't, unfortunately, gone away.

For most city dwellers, it's hard to think of cattle rustling as a modern-day crime, but farmers all over the world lose millions of dollars every year to this scourge.

In Israel, for instance, some 3,000 cows out of a total population of about 250,000, are stolen from fields every year. For a farmer who loses 10 to 15 cows in one year, this is a substantial blow to his finances — each dairy cow is worth about \$2,000-\$3,000 a head, while meat cows bring in \$1,000-\$1,500.

Now a small Israeli start-up believes it's come up with the answer. Shaked Wireless Control, which was founded less than one year ago, has developed a smart electronic collar which allows farmers to chart each cow's movement in real time in the field and set off an alarm if someone tries to steal one of the herd.

The system is the brain child of two men, Alon Korach and Uzi Hanany, both 31, who served for 10 years in intelligence units in the Israel Defense Force. The two men left the army, where they had specialized in wireless communications, in 1994, and began working for high-tech companies.

In 1995, their first company, MaxTech Technologies Ltd. was born. Based in a house on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, MaxTech works primarily with elite units in the IDF, the police force and other security agencies. Korach is unwilling to reveal more, except to say that the company is private, doesn't publish results and develops, manufactures and markets its products successfully.

The same year, a friend who ran an apary in the north approached Korach and Hanany to ask if they could find a high-tech solution to stop thieves from stealing his bee hives. The two men began to research the field of livestock theft and discovered that it was a major problem for agricultural producers globally. In Israel alone, about \$1.5 billion worth of animals and agricultural equipment are stolen every year.

In October 1996, they founded Shaked Wireless Control Ltd. at the incubator in Ofakim. For the first two years, they receive financial assistance from the Office of the Chief Scientist.

Shaked's first target was the cattle market. "This is one of the most developed branches of the agricultural market and each cow is expensive," explains Korach. The concept of the new system is simple. A small electronic collar is attached around the cow's neck.

This collar is linked to a central computer which monitors the cow's movements. If someone tries to break or remove the collar without a special code, or the cow moves out of a pre-designated area

such as the dairy or a field, an alarm goes off. This enables farmers to respond quickly to attempted theft.

The system, according to its makers, is simple to use. "It's developed for the dumb user," says Korach. Essentially it's a three-part system: the collar, which has a battery with a three-to-five-year life span; the antennas, which link the collar to the computer and specially developed

predicts.

If this happens, Shaked, which now employs five people and will soon take on another two, will move out of the incubator before its two-year incubation period is finished.

So how does Shaked's product compare with others? Korach believes it wins hands down. One of the old faithfuls of cattle farming is the electric fence, but this is by no means fool-proof. "They

way beyond cows, however. The electronic collars could, according to Korach, be adapted for air and shipping containers, works of art, and even kids.

Korach is working on a system to sell to nature reserves or theme parks such as Disney Land. "The idea is that the park would buy the system and then rent out numbered electronic bracelets to visiting children. If parents lost their offspring in the park, or teachers



Israel's farmers, who lose some 3,000 cows a year to cattle thieves, stand to benefit from the Shaked smart-collar safety system. (Nissan Shover)

software which can be used on any normal PC. At any given moment, the farmer can find out through the central computer the location of each cow, as well as extra information about genetic heritage, etc.

Korach plans to keep the system cheap — installation of software and antennas will cost about \$1,000, while each collar will be an additional \$10.

Though the system has not yet gone to market, a prototype has been developed and is in use on several farms around Israel. Work is now going on to refine the product and shrink the electronic collar. It should be on sale by the end of this year.

As with all innovations, the most difficult part is not creating it, but marketing it successfully. The market exists — globally some hundreds of million cattle are being raised — but Shaked's problem is how to reach them.

Korach's plan is to find a strategic partner that will help find the right markets at home and abroad. Already there has been enormous interest from leading Israeli, Australian, Swedish, US and British companies, and negotiations have begun.

"It's not so smart to build our own networks," says Korach. "By the end of this year we believe we can close a deal with one or more of these companies. By then our system will be well-known," he

can't really protect cows from theft because thieves are smart," says Korach. "They set off the fence a number of times in one night so the farmer begins to doubt its reliability. He thinks it's wind or something hitting the fence and stops checking." When this happens the thieves move in.

Korach dismisses other electronic products on the market as costly and slow. "They don't give real-time information like ours," he says. "Nor do they protect each individual cow."

The Shaked system does have an Achilles heel, however. If a thief kills or decapitates a cow in the field and then steals the best cuts of meat, the present system cannot alert the farmer. While such incidents are rare, farmers in the Galilee have lost cattle in this way.

In response, Korach and Hanany have begun working on a smart system that will sound an alarm if a cow stops moving or behaves abnormally over a period of time. The system, once completed, will automatically learn the behavior and habits of each cow.

There are many other possible applications such as collars that can call cows in for milking or indicate when a cow is in heat. Shaked is now exploring the feasibility of these with the Volcani Institute.

The potential applications go

were separated from their groups, they could simply go to a control center and locate them instantly. "Lots of children get lost at Disney Land," says Korach.

In the same vein, Korach also suggests the device could be used to keep track of new born babies. In some countries around the world, such as Brazil, babies are frequently stolen from hospitals to be put up for adoption. With electronic bracelets, nursing staff would know instantly if a baby was being taken out of the nursery.

Though Korach is obviously excited by all these possibilities, he believes it's essential to focus on one area at a time. "Each market has separate demands," he says. "We need strategic partners in all of these fields."

For the moment, though, Shaked will focus on cattle. Once this product is proven, it will move in different directions.

And what about the bees? Did Korach and partner find an answer? "There's no real solution," admits Korach. "It would take too much money and the benefits aren't so big as for cows. If you take one or two trucks of cows, it's like stealing half a year's livelihood, with bees it's not the same." He pauses a moment, and a gleam of amusement fills his eyes. "The only real solution is to put a collar on each bee," he suggests.

Luxembourg banks are betting their future on niche markets

By LORRAYNE SMITH

LUXEMBOURG — Luxembourg's thriving banking community hopes to beat growing competition from other financial centers and potential job losses from sector mergers by focusing on niche areas like pension funds.

"We must follow the market. We must be able to adapt to new demand," Lucien Thiel, director of Luxembourg's Association des Banques et Banquiers (ABBL), told Reuters.

Many foreign banks were attracted to Luxembourg in the early 1960s as the eurobond and eurocurrency markets developed, because of the country's economic openness and liberal approach, which allowed loans there to be issued in any currency.

Today more than 200 are established in the tiny Grand Duchy, mostly subsidiaries of high-ranking international institutions and active in a wide range of areas including bond issues, private banking, asset management and syndicated loans.

But because of global restructuring, the effect of a single financial market in Europe on competition, and technology

replacing staff, Luxembourg expects to increase specialization if it is to remain an active banking center.

"The most important thing for financial centers is to get a new profile based on some specific activities, depending on their size," Thiel said.

In July, a mega-merger was announced between Germany's Bayerische Vereinsbank and Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechsel-Bank, followed by news of a bank-insurer merger between Switzerland's Credit Suisse Group and Winterthur Group.

"If we are static, the effects of mergers — and there will be more — will be dramatic. We could see a reduction in staff (in merged banks) of 20, 30 or 40 percent," Thiel said.

Hoping to build on its reputation for asset management through investment funds, Luxembourg is now working out a framework law to develop a market for pension funds.

The pension industry is set to

expand as Europe's population ages, the number of people in work to support each pensioner falls and alternatives to state pensions grow.

Thiel said the draft law aimed to provide a framework flexible enough to fit different national pension requirements.

This would allow a German bank in Luxembourg to focus on a fund tailored for its German clients, and so on.

He noted that Luxembourg already managed some large pension funds from the asset side, but not yet from the liability side.

"Pooling pension funds will be a first step. There we already have the infrastructure used in existing investment funds," Thiel said. A second step would be to focus on multinationals.

"The final step is a European pension fund that fits with all the legal and regulatory needs of the other European countries," he added.

The European Commission is still trying to establish an EU-wide market for the bloc's \$1.5 trillion

pension fund industry, after a six-year deadlock on the issue.

There is a belief, though, that the introduction of a single European currency, the euro, in 1999 will remove most pension investment restrictions.

The prospect of the euro helped kick start Luxembourg's discussion about the future.

"Everybody was aware that a large part of past activity was based on the variety of currencies in banking here. That's why we said we need new activities to replace those that are shrinking," Thiel said.

He said that while Luxembourg would keep up activities such as asset management, it might, for example, specialize in serving a particular size of client.

Work had also been done to keep labor costs in Luxembourg competitive for banks through collective wage agreements with the banking unions, though he added net costs were still too high.

The corporate tax burden for companies was also coming down, effectively reaching 30 percent for banks next year as they would see an increase in the pre-tax provisioning allowance. (Reuters)

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Betar hope to make FC Brugge rue their visit to Jerusalem

By DEREK FATTAL

FC Brugge are hardly likely to make any friends in Jerusalem this evening.

The Belgian league runners-up asked European soccer's governing body to relocate tonight's UEFA Cup first-round match outside the capital for "fears of terrorist activity," a step clearly seen as a slap in the face for the mass of Betar fans whose reaction to the horrific Mahane Yehuda bombing in July was to turn out in force later in the day to cheer on their side in European action against

Sileks of Macedonia.

After beating Sileks, the Betaris lost on aggregate to Sporting Lisbon in the qualifying round for the Champions' League and subsequently went into the UEFA Cup draw for tonight's encounter.

A good result is essential if the Jerusalemites are to weather the return leg in a fortnight's time. The fans will be hoping for a performance of the quality the side demonstrated at Teddy Stadium against Sporting, with the important addition of the stuff victories are made of - goals. Unfortunately

for Betar coach Dror Kashtan, two of the players who impressed most against the Portuguese are missing - Eli Ohana and Tomer Azulai are sitting out the match due to accumulated yellow cards.

It is still unclear whether Kashtan will give the green light for his attacking right back Shmuelik Levy to start the game, after being dropped from Saturday's league match following a local press interview critical of Kashtan's tactics.

In the absence of Ohana, it is vital that Stefan Saloi finds his goal touch again. Together with fellow-midfielder Yossi Abuksis,

Istvan Fishont is likely to play a critical role, and the Betar hordes will be urging him to provide a repeat of the hat trick performance he put on for their entertainment at the weekend against Rishon. The Hungarian import is, however, no stranger to the Belgians who recall him from his spell as a player at Charleroi.

The Belgians arrived in Israel on Sunday and trained at Teddy yesterday evening in addition to other sessions held in Bayit Vagan.

The good news for Brugge coach Eric Gerets is that influential mid-fielder Lorenzo Staelens seems to

have shrugged off recent injury problems and should be available as a starter. The everlastig veteran Franky van der Elst will also be in the line up, and continues to be one of the team's inspiring forces.

Tickets are still available for the match which kicks-off at 18:00 and will be broadcast live on Radio 2.

Club Profile: FC Brugge. Founded: 1891. Colors: Blue and black stripes, black shorts.

1975-76 European UEFA Cup runners up (lost 3-2 to Liverpool). 1977-78 European Champions' Cup runners up (lost 1-0 to Liverpool).

Counties say no to championship changes

LONDON (Reuters) - English cricket officials were forced to admit defeat yesterday in their efforts to alter the face of the traditional county championship.

The 18 First Class counties, joined by the MCC, voted 12-7 to retain the current all-play-all format, albeit with increased incentives for the top eight sides who will qualify for a new one-day Super Cup the following season.

Although there will be promotion and relegation in the new National League one-day tournament starting in 1999, the failure to introduce two divisions at First Class level disappointed English Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Lord MacLaurin.

"County chairmen are very conservative and they have to be led along slowly and gently,"

he said. "Personally I would have gone for two divisions and I think that in my lifetime we'll get there. We'll give it three years and then see what happens."

The bulk of the other proposals put forward in the original "Raising the Standard" document last month have been retained, notably a restructuring of club and second-team cricket.

Touring teams are also likely to face more representative sides on future visits to England, although the counties have been promised that their money-spinning games against the tourists will not completely disappear.

English Test players are also likely to be contracted to the ECB rather than the counties in future. Lord MacLaurin did not put a date on it but described the move as "inevitable."

No waltz likely for Hapoel Petah Tikva in Vienna

By DEREK FATTAL

The attractive 20,000 all-seater Gerhard Hanappi Stadium in Austria's capital is the setting for tonight's UEFA Cup first-round draw between Hapoel Petah Tikva and Rapid Vienna.

Earlier this week, Rapid coach Ernst Dokupil assured the local press that he expects his men to win by a fairly comfortable margin. In the competition's preliminary round, Rapid proved quite merciless, thrashing Czech-side Boby Brno 8-2 on aggregate.

Rapid's first-choice goalkeeper Raimund Hedi is still receiving treatment for an injury,

and his place is likely to be taken by regular stand-in Andreas Koch, however Polish defender Krystof Ratajczyk is expected to make the opening line up. Cameroon forward Samuel Ipoua is set to lead the attack alongside Marcus Puert and Marek Penska.

Like Petah Tikva, the Austrians had a good outing last weekend, beating third-placed Keli Ried 3-0 at home, with Christian Stumpf the man in form, scoring a goal in each half.

The big blow for Petah Tikva is the loss of captain Benny Kozlovskiy who was so influential in the morale-boosting 4-0 victory on Friday against Ironi Ashdod.

Like Andrei Kristofic, Kozlovskiy misses

the game through suspension. Petah Tikva coach Nir Levin is hoping that his hosts will be victims of their own self-confidence, but the truth is that this time around his side faces a much tougher proposition than Denmark's Vejle. With two European finals under their belts, the Austrians have the experience and the potential to see off the likes of Hapoel.

Apart from the pressure that will be applied by the Rapid attack, the Israelis could also find themselves on the receiving end of some harsh treatment from the more unruly Viennese fans, some of whom have a reputation for being racist.

Tonight's match kicks off at 20.30 Israel

time and news flashes will be broadcast on Israel Radio 2 and Army Radio.

Petah Tikva's expected lineup: Shai Hess; Yaniv Hermesh, Gabor Marton, Avi Fleischer, Ilan Buaron, Walid Badir, Manor Hassan, Shlomi Ben-Hamo, Eli Aharbanel, Moti Kakkor; Yaniv Ofri.

Club Profile: Rapid Vienna. Founded: 1898 (as I. Wiener Arbeiter-Fussballklub). Colors: Green and White, stripes, white shorts.

1984-85 European Cup Winners' Cup runners up (lost 3-1 to Everton).

1995-96 European Cup Winners' Cup runners up (lost 1-0 to Paris St. Germain).

Woodward gives up club job, set to be England rugby coach

LONDON (Reuters) - Former international center Clive Woodward has moved a step closer to being confirmed as England's new chief rugby coach.

Woodward, 41, said that Bath's victory at Scottish Borders in the European Cup at the weekend had marked his last game at the club, effectively confirming that he was set to take over the top job in the English game.

The English Rugby Union (RFU) is expected to make an announcement about the former Leicester and England center in the next few days and the national squad are due to take part in a training session tomorrow.

The RFU have been keen to appoint a full-time coach since Jack Rowell quit last month after more than three years, because he was unable to combine his business interests with coaching.

Woodward, who has been working as the assistant trainer at Bath and has coached England's under-

21 side in the past, will reportedly earn £150,000 (\$240,000) a year when he takes up the full-time post.

Bath were also reported yesterday to be set to receive a compensation package so that Woodward would be available to take over the job immediately.

Sale's New Zealander John Mitchell, the former All Black and Waitomo number eight, and Wasps coach Rob Smith are also expected to be involved in his coaching team.

Woodward is said to want Smith as his right-hand man. Former England back row forward and coach Roger Utley is due to be named as team manager.

England are in a hurry to make an appointment as they will face Tests against the three most powerful rugby nations in the world - South Africa, Australia and New Zealand - in November.

Negotiations over contracts and compensation are believed to have held up Woodward's appointment.

Pontypridd players arrested after bar brawl in France

BRIVE, France (Reuters) - Two Welsh rugby union players were arrested and placed under investigation for allegedly starting a fight in which three French internationalists were injured after a European Cup match on Sunday.

Both players, Pontypridd's Dade McIntosh and Phil John, face charges of two months to two years in prison and heavy fines, French police said yesterday.

The fight erupted after the Welshmen entered a bar in which Brive players were celebrating their 32-31 victory in a tense

match.

French Rugby Union Federation (FFR) president Bernard Lapasset asked the European Cup discipline committee to ban Pontypridd and the players from the competition.

"We first of all want the police to shed light on what happened. If there is a collective responsibility we want the club to be banned," an FFR spokesman said.

"If individuals are to blame we want the European Cup organizers to consider banning the players involved from the competition

for life."

The FFR spokesman said he had received a fax from European Cup chief Roger Pickering saying that the players faced "very harsh sanctions."

The match had already been tense, with a player from each team, including New Zealand-born McIntosh, sent off following a punch-up at the end of the first half.

During the brawl in the Le Touzau bar, owned by two former Brive players, center Christophe Lamaison and scrum-half

Philippe Carbonneau had broken noses, while center David Venditti had a finger bitten.

"I was talking with (Pontypridd fly-half) Neil Jenkins when I saw that McIntosh and Phil John were threatening Carbonneau," Venditti said.

"I asked Jenkins to calm them down but it was too late. They were fighting already," McIntosh, John and Williams were arrested by the police, while other team members were confined to their hotel pending investigation.

No Pontypridd official was available for comment.

Carbonneau was hit by a broken glass. As for Williams, he must have been hungry as he bit my finger and my left hand," Venditti added.

"When the police arrived my shirt had gone and I was bleeding all over. It was like a western movie. Obviously the Welsh came looking for trouble," McIntosh, John and Williams were arrested by the police, while other team members were confined to their hotel pending investigation.

No Pontypridd official was available for comment.

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National Football League Summaries

Baltimore 7 7 0 10-24

NY Giants 0 12 8 3-23
First Quarter: Bal—D. Alexander 22 pass from Testaverde (Stover kick), 10:46. Second Quarter: NYG—Barber 1 run (kick blocked), 14:30. Bal—Graham 1 run (Stover kick), 3:12. NYG—Way 1 pass from Brown (pass failed), 1:14. Third Quarter: NYG—Wheatley 1 run (Barber pass from Brown), 9:13. Fourth Quarter: NYG—FG Dainis 27, 12:22. Bal—Jackson 11 pass from Testaverde (Stover kick), 7:08. Bal—FG Stover 37, 3:4. A—49,768.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Baltimore, Byner 13-57, Testaverde 2-10, Graham 6 (minus 4).
PASSING—Baltimore, Testaverde 22-35-1-223, N.Y. Giants, Brown 28-46-0-249.
RECEIVING—Baltimore, Green 6-71, Jackson 5-72, D. Alexander 5-57, Byner 5-20, Graham 1-1. N.Y. Giants, Calloway 8-79, Barber 5-27, Way 4-11, Lewis 3-43, Toomer 3-40, Wheatley 2-16, Cross 1-26, D. Alexander 1-20, Pierce 1-7.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—N.Y. Giants, Dainis 41 (WR), 41 (WR).

Buffalo 0 3 7 6-16

Kansas City 6 3 0 13-22
First Quarter: KC—FG Stoyanovich 46, 8:20. KC—FG Stoyanovich 45, 1:08. Second Quarter: Buf—FG Christie 44, 7:49. KC—FG Stoyanovich 42, 1:03. Third Quarter: Buf—Need 7 pass from Collins (Christie kick), 12:15. Fourth Quarter: Buf—FG Christie 30, 11:52. KC—Richardson 1 pass from Grbac (kick blocked), 6:55. A—78,169.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Buffalo, A. Smith 11-30, Thomas 10-17, Collins 1-3, Need 1-0, Kansas City, Hill 17-59, Anders 5-25, Grbac 2-15, Allen 1-8.
PASSING—Buffalo, Collins 22-43-2-297. Kansas City, Grbac 20-37-0-179.
RECEIVING—Buffalo, Need 4-13, Johnson 4-30, Thomas 4-23, Early 3-47, Moulds 3-39, Niemersa 2-22, A. Smith 2-3, Kansas City, Kiser 5-75, Anders 5-31, Pagan 4-20, Gonzalez 3-34, Hill 1-9, Hughes 1-9, Richardson 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Kansas City, Stoyanovich 48 (WR).

OFFICIALS: Referee Tom White, Ump Ed Conner, H. Paul Widner, J. Ben Montgomery, B. Scott Stinson, S. Leslie Spiggle, P. Billy Smith.

Detroit 3 10 0 9-32

Chicago 7 0 0 0-7
First Quarter: Chi—Harris 7 run (Jeager kick), 8:25. Det—FG Hanson 23, 2:49. Second Quarter: Det—Morton 16 pass from Mitchell (Hanson kick), 11:18. Det—FG Hanson 33, 10:2. Third Quarter: Det—FG Hanson 27, 5:44. Det—Harris 1 run (Hanson kick), 1:14. Fourth Quarter: Det—Morton 27 pass from Mitchell (run failed), 12:09. Det—FG Hanson 32, 5:4. A—59,147.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Detroit, Sanders 19-161, Rivers 7-23, Harris 5-15, Mitchell 4-11, Chicago, Harris 22-73, Mier 4-14, Salami 2-7, Kramer 1-0.
PASSING—Detroit, Mitchell 16-25-0-215. Chicago, Mier 10-21-1-90, Kramer 11-19-0-128.
RECEIVING—Detroit, Morton 7-98, Morton 4-49, Sloan 2-14, Harris 1-37, Metzlaars 1-14, Sanders 1-3, Chicago, Ingram 5-60, Prohl 4-44, Hughes 4-33, Pann 3-31, Alford 2-26, Harris 2-13, Boes 1-9.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Miami 6 3 3 6-18

Green Bay 0 10 3 10-23
First Quarter: Mia—FG Mare 24, 7:54. Mia—FG Mare 31, 1:34. Second Quarter: GB—Freeman 2 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 11:57. Mia—FG Mare 22, 1:55. GB—FG Longwell 26, 3:4. Third Quarter: Mia—FG Mare 34, 11:30. GB—FG Longwell 24, 2:26. Fourth Quarter: GB—FG Longwell 39, 14:52. GB—Henderson 10 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 5:53. Mia—Jordan 29 pass from Marino (pass failed), 1:47. A—40,075.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Miami, Abdul-Jabbar 15-45, Spikes 3-4, Kidd 1-4, Jordan 1-2, Parnale 1-2, Green Bay, Levens 21-121, Favre 5-11, Henderson 3-10.
PASSING—Miami, Marino, 21-47-1-240. Green Bay, Favre 24-37-0-253.
RECEIVING—Miami, Jordan 4-100, McDuffie 4-36, McPhail 4-24, Salami 3-22, Drayton 2-31, Abdul-Jabbar 2-21, Manning 1-14, Parnale 1-1. Green Bay, Henderson 3-40, Chumura 5-57, Freeman 5-52, Brooks 4-72, Levens 2-4, Schroeder 1-8.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Oakland 7 3 21 5-36

Atlanta 7 7 10 7-31
First Quarter: Atl—Green 1 run (Andersen kick), 10:06. Oak—Kaufman 68 run (Ford kick), 7:00. Second Quarter: Atl—Santiago 1 pass from Chandler (Andersen kick), 14:13. Oak—FG Ford 49, 0:00. Third Quarter: Oak—Jett 51 pass from George (Ford kick), 11:04. Atl—Christian 3 pass from Chandler (Andersen kick), 9:41.
Oak—Shedd 25 fumble return (Ford kick), 8:03. Atl—FG Andersen 51, 4:09. Oak—Kaufman 58 run (Ford kick), 3:46. Fourth Quarter: Atl—Harris 6 pass from Tolliver (Andersen kick), 7:17. Oak—FG Ford 31, 4:24. Atl—Christian 3 pass from Chandler (Andersen kick), 9:41.
Oak—Shedd 25 fumble return (Ford kick), 8:03. Atl—FG Andersen 51, 4:09. Oak—Kaufman 58 run (Ford kick), 3:46. Fourth Quarter: Atl—Harris 6 pass from Tolliver (Andersen kick), 7:17. Oak—FG Ford 31, 4:24. Atl—Christian 3 pass from Chandler (Andersen kick), 9:41.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Oakland, Kaufman 14-140, Finner 4-8, L. Brown 1-2, George 1 (minus 1). Atlanta, Hartsfield 4-84, Anderson 9-26, Chandler 2-4, Green 1-2.
PASSING—Oakland, George 12-22-0-286. Atlanta, Chandler 16-25-0-199, Tolliver 10-17-0-100.
RECEIVING—Oakland, L. Brown 4-49, Dotley 2-90, Kaufman 2-26, Jett 1-51, Dawson 1-25, Shedd 1-14, Finner 1-9, Atlanta, Harris 6-55, Santiago 5-40, Emanuel 4-92, Hayes 3-41, Christian 3-24, Hartsfield 2-30, Green 2-16, Anderson 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Tampa Bay 0 14 7 28

Minnesota 3 0 3 8-14
First Quarter: Min—FG G. Davis 25, 1:49. Second Quarter: TB—Harris 5 pass from Diller (Husted kick), 13:50. Drive 6 plays, 71 yards, 2:59. TB—Alstott 1 run (Husted kick), 3:57. Third Quarter: TB—Copeland 27 pass from Diller (Husted kick), 9:16. Min—FG G. Davis 24, 4:37. Fourth Quarter: TB—Dunn 52 run (Husted kick), 12:29. Min—C. Carter 30 pass from Johnson (Johnson run), 3:41. A—43,697.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Tampa Bay, Dunn 16-101, Alstott 8-29, Rhee 8-28, Anthony 1-26, Diller 4-7. Minnesota, R. Smith 10-54, R. Johnson 2-16, Evans 1-4, Heard 2 (minus 2).
PASSING—Tampa Bay, Diller 15-20-0-192. Minnesota, R. Johnson 29-44-0-334.
RECEIVING—Tampa Bay, Anthony 4-58, Copeland 3-45, Harris 3-13, Thomas 2-24, Alstott 2-9, Dunn 1-1, Minnesota, Reed 6-131, C. Carter 6-49, R. Smith 4-27, Evans 5-53, Walsh 2-29, Heard 2-8, Palmer 1-10, Delong 1-7.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Seattle 7 10 0 14-31

Indianapolis 3 0 0 0-3
First Quarter: Ind—FG Blanchard 46, 9:00. Sea—Smith 3 run (Peterson kick), 5:40. Second Quarter: Sea—Moon 1 run (Peterson kick), 13:59. Sea—FG Peterson 27, 5:2. Fourth Quarter: Sea—Pritchard 28 pass from Moon (Peterson kick), 13:41. Sea—C. Warren 36 run (Peterson kick), 2:59. A—49,194.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Seattle, L. Smith 12-76, C. Warren 9-61, Moon 2-18, Kira 2 (minus 2), Indianapolis, Faulk 17-58, Harbaugh 4-30, Crockett 3-9, L. Warren 1 (minus 2).
PASSING—Seattle, Moon 24-38-1-270. Indianapolis, Harbaugh 11-17-0-77.
RECEIVING—Seattle, Galloway 6-58, Warren 6-45, Pritchard 4-69, Crumpler 3-26, Harris 2-38, Br. Blades 2-38, L. Smith 1-4. Indianapolis, Harrison 4-38, Bailey 3-23, Faulk 2-9, Crockett 2-7.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

New Orleans 0 0 0 7-7

San Francisco 14 0 10 0-33
First Quarter: SF—FG Anderson 43, 10:26. SF—Jones 18 pass from Young (Anderson kick), 6:30. SF—FG Anderson 22, 3:16. Second Quarter: SF—FG Anderson 40, 13:02. SF—Jones 1 pass from Young (Anderson kick), 1:57. Third Quarter: SF—Harris 1 pass from Young (Anderson kick), 11:31. SF—FG Anderson 38, 1:46. Fourth Quarter: NO—Hastings 8 pass from Wuerfel (Brien kick), 14:54. A—61,838.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—New Orleans, Bates 8-28, Zellers 4-25, Davis 5-11, Bender 3-8, Hastings 2-4, Wuerfel 1-5, Shuler 1-1, Guilford 1 (minus 2). San Francisco, Kirby 10-43, Hearst 14-29, Young 2-12, Edwards 2-5, Boyd 4-3, Druckenmiller 1 (minus 1).
PASSING—New Orleans, Shuler 5-11-3-66. Wuerfel 7-15-3-119. San Francisco, Young 18-21-0-220, Druckenmiller 4-4-0-41.
RECEIVING—New Orleans, Hastings 4-58, Guilford 3-41, Hill 3-46, Johnson 1-13, Bates 1-7. San Francisco, Jones 5-58, Stokes 4-41, Hearst 4-23, Owens 3-74, Floyd 2-9, Harris 1-14, Uwazozoka 1-13, Kirby 1-4, Edwards 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

St. Louis 7 0 0 7-14
Denver 7 7 7 14-3
5 First Quarter: Den—R. Smith 72 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 9:54. St.—Phillips 23 run (Wilkins kick), 5:3. Second Quarter: Den—Carrwell 24 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 4:10. Third Quarter: Den—Gordon 94 punt return (Elam kick), 13:27. Fourth Quarter: Den—Smith 38 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 11:00. Den—McGaffrey 23 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 10:43. St.—Moore 27 run (Wilkins kick), 2:55. A—74,338.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—St. Louis, Phillips 13-60, Moore 5-48, Banks 2-42, Hayward 2-4, Lee 1-4. Denver, Davis 21-103, Hebron 5-19, Griffith 4-13, Elway 3-10, Lewis 1 (minus 1).
PASSING—St. Louis, Banks 10-33-217-2. Denver, Elway 16-28-247-1.
RECEIVING—St. Louis, Lee 6-90, Moore 3-29, Small 3-22, Kenison 2-26, Connell 2-19, Crawford 1-17, Ross 1-14. Denver, R. Smith 4-24, Carrwell 4-47, Sharpe 2-20, Chamberlain 2-18, McGaffrey 1-23, Greene 1-5, Davis 1-4, Griffith 1-4.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Wilkins 37 (WR), Elam 43 (RB).

Carolina 10 3 3 10-26

San Diego 7 0 0 0-7
First Quarter: SD—Pegram 6 run (Carney kick), 5:16. Car—Walls 8 pass from Collins (Kasay kick), 3:06. Car—FG Kasay 25, 0:59. Second Quarter: Car—FG Kasay 34, 7:45. Third Quarter: Car—FG Kasay 34, 1:57. Fourth Quarter: Car—FG Kasay 28, 14:05. Car—Walls 1 pass from Collins (Kasay kick), 10:08. A—43,149.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Carolina, Biskampusta 12-54, Lane 18-52, Greene 5-17, Esmail 1-11, Johnson 5-7. San Diego, Brown 10-35, Fleydler 5-33, Humphries 1-12, Pegram 3-6, Gardner 1-4.
PASSING—Carolina, R. Collins 17-36-1-138. San Diego, Humphries 13-25-0-145, Everett 4-9-0-62.
RECEIVING—Carolina, Muhammad 4-43, Walls 3-34, Greene 3-18, Esmail 2-21, E. Mills 2-13, Lane 2-2, Johnson 1-7. San Diego, Fletcher 4-8, Harris 3-75, E. Jones 2-36, Still 2-16, Brown 2-11.

Arizona 7 0 3 0-13

Washington 7 0 3 0-19
First Quarter: Was—FG Blanton 18, 8:27. Ari—Bennett recovered blocked punt in end zone (Bender kick), 5:57. Second Quarter: Was—Westbrook 5 pass from Fretotte (Blanton kick), 13:37. Third Quarter: Ari—FG Butler 32, 5:2. Fourth Quarter: Was—FG Blanton 19, 1:13. Ari—FG Butler 47, 0:02. Overtime: Was—Westbrook 40 pass from Fretotte, 13:24. A—78,270.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—Arizona, McCoy 18-49, Bowie 5-25, Centers 2-10, Gentry 0-15, Graham 2-9, C. Smith 1-2, Feagles 1-0, R. Williams 1 (minus 2). Washington, Allen 25-56, Fretotte 3-9, Mitchell 1-7, Shepherd 1-4.
PASSING—Arizona, Graham 17-40-0-132. Washington, Fretotte 16-24-1-265.
RECEIVING—Arizona, Centers 6-42, Sanders 4-32, Moore 3-27, R. Williams 1-1, Washington, Shepherd 4-47, Asher 4-29, Westbrook 3-46, Bowie 3-43, Elard 2-35, Allen 2-14, Mitchell 1-11.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Arizona, Butler 34 (WR), Washington, Blanton 51 (WR), 51 (S).

NY Jets 7 3 7 0-24

New England 14 0 3 7 3-27
First Quarter: NE—Gates 32 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 13:06. NYJ—O'Donnell 2 run (Hall kick), 6:02. NE—Harris 2 run (Vinatieri kick), 2:13. Second Quarter: NYJ—FG Hall 17, 12:17. Third Quarter: NYJ—Lewis 43 interception return (Hall kick), 2:55. NE—FG Vinatieri 10:53. Fourth Quarter: NE—Parrill 10 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri kick), 12:53. NYJ—Johnson 24 pass from O'Donnell (Hall kick), 37:07. Overtime: NE—FG Vinatieri 34, 6:57. A—60,292.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS:
RUSHING—N.Y. Jets, Murrell 10-110, O'Donnell 3-20. New England, Murrell 40-199, Byers 2-4, Bledsoe 4-6.
PASSING—N.Y. Jets, O'Donnell 30-50-0-271. New England, Bledsoe 16-34-2-162.
RECEIVING—N.Y. Jets, Chelost 6-42, Johnson 5-42, Anderson 3-14, Ward 2-17, Murrell 2-4, Baxter 1-4. New England, Jefferson 5-43, Coates 2-40, Parrill 2-25, Brisby 2-15, Martin 2-15, Byers 2-10, L. Brown 1 (minus 6).
MISSED FIELD GOALS—New York, Hall 29 (RB).



SUDDEN DEATH—Redskins WR Michael Westbrook (1) catches game-winning OT pass from Gus Frerotte to beat Cardinals, 19-13 on Sunday. Arizona safety Jamal Williams looks on.

Buccaneers stay unbeaten

Redskins inaugurate new stadium with OT victory; Patriots spoil Parcell's Foxboro visit

NEW YORK (AP)—Tampa Bay, Baltimore and Detroit are giving the NFL standings a different look.

The three teams, who totaled 15 victories and 33 losses last year, are a combined 7-2 in the first three weeks this season, and the surprising Buccaneers (3-0) are the only unbeaten team in the NFC.

Horace Copeland caught his first touchdown pass since 1995 and set up another score with a 49-yard grab in Tampa Bay's 28-14 victory Sunday over Minnesota, the conference's only other unbeaten team after two weeks.

Rookie Warrick Dunn rushed for 101 yards and scored on a 52-yard run in the fourth quarter, helping the Bucs, who were 6-10 last year, to their best start since the 1979 team won its first five games on the way to the NFC Championship game.

Baltimore, 4-12 last year and 0-8 on the road, won 24-23 over the New York Giants on Matt Stover's 37-yard field goal with 34 seconds left. The Ravens (2-1) took advantage of a missed extra point and two missed 41-yard field-goal attempts by the Giants' Brad Daluiso.

Barry Sanders, held to 53 yards in the season's first two games, rushed for 161 as Detroit rolled to a 32-7 victory at Chicago. The Lions, who also got two TD passes from Scott Mitchell, are 2-1 on the heels of last year's 5-11 showing that got Wayne Fontes fired.

Cincinnati, Tennessee, Jacksonville and Pittsburgh had open dates.

Tampa Bay has lost at least 10 games in 13 of the last 14 seasons. But the Bucs have taken over first place in the Central Division in impressive fashion, upsetting San Francisco and then winning at Detroit and Minnesota after going 1-7 on the road last season.

Ravens 24, Giants 23
Vince Testaverde threw two touchdowns passes as visiting Baltimore rallied from a 23-14 deficit with 12:22 to play to hand

the Giants (1-2) their second straight loss.

Lions 32, Bears 7
Chicago fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1969 and also lost Rashawn Salaam, a 1,000-yard rusher in 1995, for the season with a broken right leg.

Rick Mirer, acquired in an unpopular offseason trade with Seattle, made his Chicago debut after coach Dave Wannstedt benched starting quarterback Erik Kramer in third quarter.

Redskins 19, Cardinals 13 (OT)
Michael Westbrook caught two touchdown passes, including a fallaway, 40-yard grab 1:36 into overtime in the inaugural game at Jack Kent Cooke Stadium in Landover, Maryland.

Westbrook, who caught only one pass in the first two games following his demotion from the starting lineup for his attack on teammate Stephen Davis during a preseason practice, made a 5-yard TD catch in the second quarter.

Patriots 27, Jets 24 (OT)
Bill Parcells went back to Foxboro Stadium as coach of the New York Jets and found out his team is nearly in the same class New England.

Adam Vinatieri kicked a 34-yard field goal in overtime giving the Patriots a victory over the Jets in Parcells' first game against his former team since taking it to the Super Bowl last January.

It was a narrow victory for New England, which led 24-17 before Neil O'Donnell's 24-yard touchdown pass to Keyshawn Johnson tied it with 31 seconds left in regulation. Then Derrick Cullors fumbled the kickoff, giving the Jets a chance to win, but the Pats' Mike Jones blocked John Hall's field-goal attempt, forcing the overtime.

Packers 23, Dolphins 18
Brett Favre threw two touchdowns passes and Dorsey Levens had a career-high 121 yards rushing as Green Bay (2-1) bounced back from a loss at Philadelphia

by winning at home.

Ryan Longwell, who missed a chip shot in the final seconds that would have beaten the Eagles, hit all three of his field goals to counter four from Miami's Olinde Mare.

Chiefs 22, Bills 16
Elvis Grbac, who hit Andre Rison with a game-winning 32-yard TD pass in the final seconds at Oakland last week, found Tony Richardson from the 1 with 6:55 left.

Raiders 36, Falcons 31
Jeff George, released by the Falcons a year ago after a sideline tantrum, threw a 76-yard pass that set up Cole Ford's tiebreaking field goal with 4:24 remaining.

49ers 33, Saints 7
Steve Young, sidelined last week due to his third concussion in his last 10 regular-season games, threw three touchdowns passes, and Rod Woodson intercepted three passes and recovered a fumble in the home run.

Broncos 35, Rams 14
John Elway threw four touch-

down passes, including 72- and 38-yarders to Rod Smith, in Denver's romp past St. Louis.

Darren Gordon returned a punt 94 yards for another score, and Terrell Davis had his third straight 100-yard rushing game, gaining 103 yards on 21 carries.

Panthers 26, Chargers 7
Carolina welcomed back quarterback Kerry Collins and wrecked the home debut of San Diego coach Kevin Gilbride.

Collins, playing for the first time since breaking his jaw on August 9, threw two touchdowns passes to tight end Wesley Walls, and John Kasey had four field goals.

Seahawks 31, Colts 3
Warren Moon, at 40 the oldest player in the NFL, passed for 270 yards and one touchdown in Seattle's first victory of the season as Seattle won at Indianapolis.

Moon was 24-for-38, set up a first-quarter touchdown run by Lamar Smith and even ran for one touchdown himself, his first rushing TD in four years.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New England	3	0	0	1.000	99	37
Miami	2	1	0	.667	50	46
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	57	78
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	87	58
Indianapolis	0	3	0	.000	19	78
Central						
Jacksonville	2	0	0	1.000	68	40
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	74	61
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	34	44
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	21	50
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	37	37
West						
Denver	3	0	0	1.000	89	31
Kansas City	2	1	0	.667	53	62
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	84	83
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	34	73
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	48	79

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	2	1	0	.667	54	37
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	59	32
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	27	40
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	59	65
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	67	81
Central						
Tampa Bay	3	0	0	1.000	65	37
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	77	48
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	70	52
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	73	45
Chicago	0	3	0	.000	55	97
West						
Carolina	2	1	0	.667	45	37
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	54	32
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	44	74
Atlanta	0	3	0	.000	54	73
New Orleans	0	3	0	.000	37	91

Last night: Philadelphia at Dallas. Next Sunday's games: Baltimore at Tennessee; Chicago at New England; Detroit at New Orleans; Kansas City at Carolina; Minnesota at Green Bay; Oakland at NY Jets; Atlanta at San Francisco; Cincinnati at Denver; Indianapolis at Buffalo; NY Giants at St. Louis; San Diego at Seattle; Miami at Tampa Bay. Open dates: Arizona, Dallas, Philadelphia, Washington Monday, Sept. 22; Pittsburgh at Jacksonville.

Alesi signs for Sauber

LONDON (Reuters)—French driver Jean Alesi will race for Sauber next season, the Formula One motor racing team announced yesterday.

They said Alesi, 33, had signed a two-year contract to join the Swiss-based team from Benetton.

His replacement at Benetton will be Italian Giancarlo Fisichella, currently driving for Jordan.

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GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

'I do,' says Dudu



Topaz: headed for the 'huppa' (Yoni Hamaenachem)

Television ratings king Dudu Topaz hasn't been as lucky in love as he has been in viewers' popularity polls, but his romantic misfortunes have, apparently, not dimmed his optimism. The promos for his new season show have him smirking as he repeats "I do, I do, I do, I do." It's more than just a word play on his name. Topaz is about to take another bride. If all goes according to plan, the ceremony will take place this Thursday, when Topaz weds schoolteacher Roni Chen in a twilight ceremony atop Masada. Topaz, 51 and Chen, 28, have been each other's significant other for the past two years. This will be Topaz's second marriage. He has had numerous other relationships without making a commitment, and his bride-to-be has no illusions about his roving eye. However, she says, he may keep looking at other women, but she's reasonably confident that in all other respects he'll remain faithful.

PEOPLE of faith seem able to bounce back even after the most traumatic experiences. Like the Reverend Petra Heldt, who was seriously injured by terrorist bombers in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market, Heldt, who doesn't allow physical pain to get in the way of spiritual growth, will be one of the speakers during the Fall Seminar for Christian Volunteers. The provocative subject of her November 6 address is "Christian Attitudes Toward Israel."

ALTHOUGH the national ombudsman system, which originated in Sweden, has been around since 1809, it has still not been adopted by many countries. Israel has had a national ombudsman for 25 years — and we are the only Middle East country to do so. Marten Oosting is president of the International Ombudsman's Institute, the world organization of ombudsmen. He would like to expand the system. During last week's IOI conference, hosted in Jerusalem by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Oosting noted that the "defender of the people" — the literal translation from the Swedish "ombudsman" — now operates in over 80 countries. Some are new democracies which were formerly totalitarian regimes or military dictatorships.

The problems they confront vary from country to country depending on the legal system, the level of economic development and the manner in which foreigners are treated. Oosting, who for the past 10 years has been national ombudsman of the Netherlands, observed that one out of every six complaints in the Netherlands last year dealt with foreigners. Refugees are vulnerable, he noted, which is one reason he examines their complaints with great attention. Oosting makes no secret of the ombudsman's reliance on the media. "Publicity is a key condition of

deprived children a warm home means, among other things, attending that organization's major events. When Sara Netanyahu agreed to attend the gala "Hand-in-Hand" fund-raising dinner at the Tel Aviv Hilton, she had no idea that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would be feted in Jerusalem at the same time. But a promise is a promise, so Netanyahu zipped down to Tel Aviv for a brief round of handshakes, and a few speeches, then rushed back to Jerusalem. Unable to enter the hotel ballroom via the lobby for security reasons, Netanyahu came in through the kitchen and thus missed seeing the bevy of beautiful, black-gowned models distributing place cards. She also didn't stay around long enough to see the procession of male and female models showing off Calvin Klein underwear. But some of the chefs came out of the kitchen to stare, and a few of the waiters were so awestruck that they put down their trays. Proceeds from the Tel Aviv event will be used to establish two children's homes in Yavne in memory of Miri Sheerit, the daughter of Likud MK Meir Sheerit and his wife Ruth, who died four years ago from cancer. The Sheerits live in Yavne.

SEEN window-shopping last Friday in Tel Aviv's upmarket Kikar Hamedina was Lily Sharon, wife of Minister for National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon. She left empty-handed, however. Although she's known as a clothes horse, the summer sales apparently didn't offer anything sufficiently tempting.



Lily Sharon: just looking (Elihu Harari)

ELSEWHERE in Tel Aviv on Friday, a group of Tel Aviv socialites went wild at the showing at the Hilton of the colorful new Christian Lacroix collection — a bright spark in what promises to be a gloomy winter colorwise. Two of the most enthusiastic viewers were Ruti Ofer and Rachel Ezion, who wear Lacroix designs almost exclusively. They told French Television that they absolutely loved the show. After seeing the new collection, Ofer told husband Yuli to brace himself. The average price of a Lacroix tailored suit is around NIS 5,000. But Yuli Ofer was forking out for his wife's expensive tastes long before becoming the co-owner of Bank Mizrahi, which he and Muzi Wertheim recently acquired.

IF Hillary Clinton visits Israel again, she won't be very happy when she sees the poster advertising Ariel Einstein and Shemtov Levy's new CD *Where Are the Butterflies?* Einstein looms large in the poster lighting up a cigarette. For Clinton, who has asked movie stars to desist from smoking on screen, the sight of Einstein on bus stops all over the country may be just a little too much.

YOU MIGHT think that the David Levy jokes belittling our foreign minister's intelligence would have gotten buried by now. But not Comedian Tuvia Tsafir couldn't resist resurrecting that old, unfattering image last Saturday night, when daylight saving time came to an end. Levy, looking somewhat the worse for wear, was asked what was wrong. "I just haven't slept," was the reply — according to Tsafir. "After 12, they said to move the clock back, so I moved it. Then it was 12 o'clock again, so I moved it again. Then it was 12 o'clock again, and I moved it again... I haven't slept all week."

MAYBE the paparazzi are feeling guilty, or maybe they've just lost interest. But unbelievably, Mad.ana, who's forever hounded by shutterbugs, was able to go out and see a movie last week without being trailed by photographers.

AFTER canceling a scheduled Paris concert in deference to Princess Diana, Michael Jackson, who was her personal friend, agreed to keep an engagement in Belgium. But he turned it into a tribute to Di, featuring two portraits on giant screens, and asked the audience to join him in lighting candles to the princess's memory.

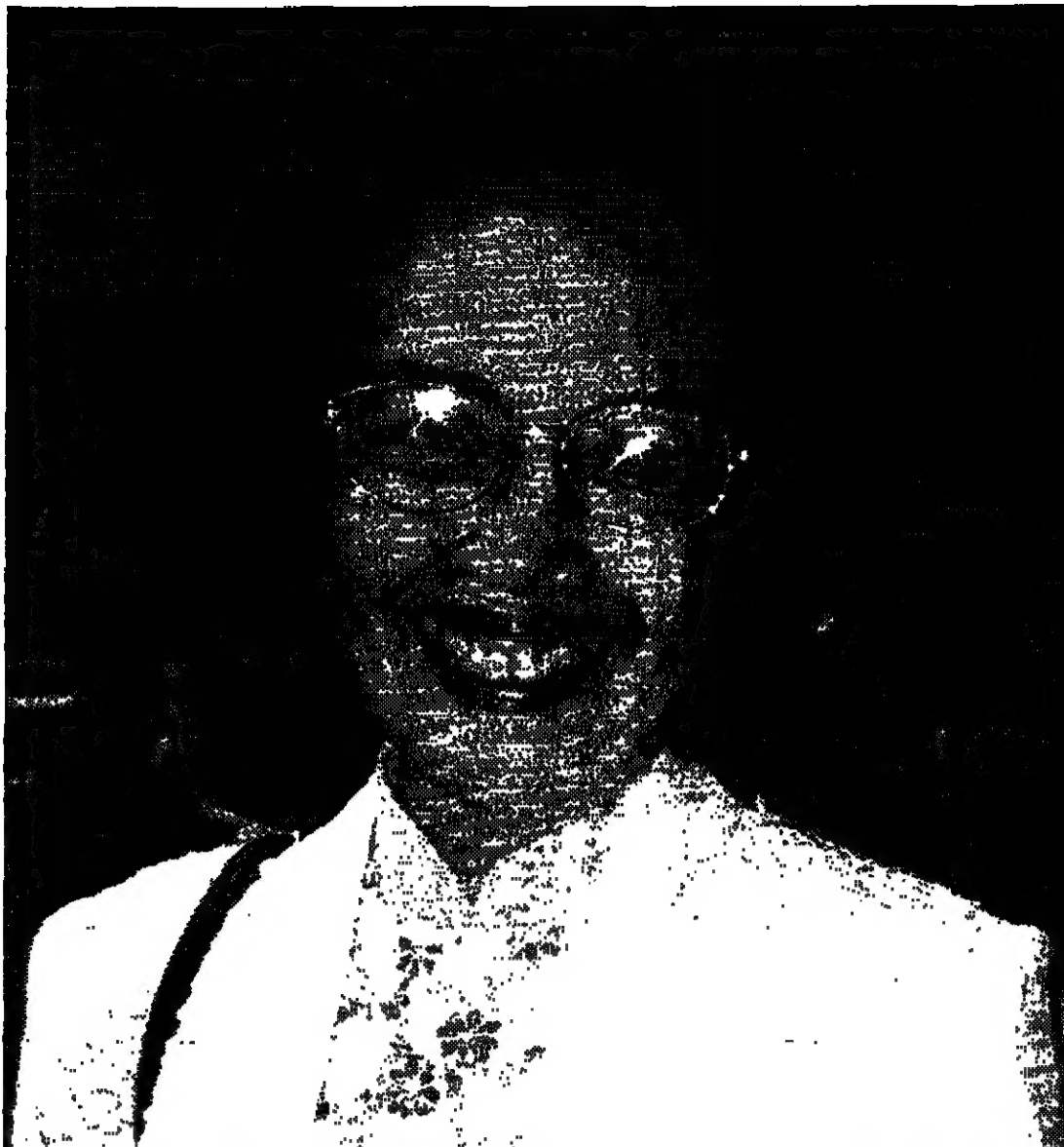


Tuvia Tsafir removes the kief-fyeh to take a swipe at David Levy. (Rafi Daloz)

our work," he says. "The mobilization of shame would not be possible without the cooperation of the media."

Of the 21 countries represented at the conference, a third were once part of Communist Europe. Also present was Jacob Soderman, former national ombudsman of Finland and ombudsman of the European Union for the past two years.

BEING chairperson of a national organization which works to give needy and emotionally



North Vietnam's wartime radio star: 'It was the GIs who called me Hanoi Hannah.' (Reuters)

Hanoi Hannah recalls her wartime glory

By ADRIAN EDWARDS

Hanoi Hannah, the seductive radio siren of North Vietnamese wartime propaganda broadcasts to American GIs, is not about to have regrets about her past.

"It was the best time of my life," the elegant 67-year-old explains. "It was the spirit of the times. I was contributing something for my country." On the face of it, there are few reasons why a woman whose airwaves persona imprinted itself on the minds of so many should feel anything but pride with her life's work.

Unlike her notorious World War Two counterparts, Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally — American women who were charged with treason — the real-life Hanoi Hannah, Trinh Thi Ngo, was decorated for her efforts by a victorious Hanoi with a 1st Class Resistance Medal and US Resistance award.

But 21 years after her last regular broadcast under the name Thu Huong went off the air, there is a sense of quiet sadness about a Cold War radio star who has descended into anonymity since the war's end in 1975. "I wish I could be back there, in Hanoi," she says, referring to her post-war life spent living in Saigon, the vanquished capital of South Vietnam, renamed after the war as Ho Chi Minh City. "I remember my last program. I felt a little sad that I had to give up my broadcasting."

Today, and despite an occasional career in TV, Hanoi Hannah is better known among Americans and foreign journalists than among her fellow compatriots. Two years ago, at the 20th anniversary of the end of the war,

she was inundated with interview requests from visiting correspondents, one of whom commented on her huge 'appearance' fees.

Trinh Thi Ngo reflects fondly on the past — the tiny Russian-equipped studio in Hanoi from where she led a team of announcers, the broadcasts to the US troops, and the foreign press clippings that filtered back to the North Vietnamese capital.

"It was the GIs who called me Hanoi Hannah," she says. "I was just a student when I started broadcasting. But after we began daily programs in 1965 I began to see the name Hanoi Hannah on news agency despatches we received from AFP, UPI and Reuters." Programs began with her call-sign. "This is Thu Huong calling American servicemen in South Vietnam." They carried a mix of demoralizing war news and music to pull on heart-strings that ranged from anti-war songs such as "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" to Louis Armstrong hits or nostalgic like "White Christmas".

"We also translated military propaganda material from Vietnamese into English and tried to make it softer, not so aggressive," she says. "For example, I never called them 'enemy'."

US VETERANS working in Hanoi say today that the broadcasts, with Hannah's 'talks' to GIs, were so exaggerated that no one viewed them as credible.

"She would say that thousands of Americans had been killed in some battle in an area near where we were," says a former field worker who served in the Mekong Delta. "We knew there had been no major battle there. The casualty

levels, too, were just way beyond being believed." Nonetheless, Vietnamese share a determined confidence that Hanoi Hannah and the efforts of the media as a whole did help to turn the tide of American and world opinion against the war.

For related reasons, the communist country's leaders of today remain committed to the use of propaganda as a means of bolstering support and defeating peace-time enemies who might threaten their rule. At a meeting of senior news editors in Hanoi last month, the Communist Party wheeled out a member of the elite politburo, Nguyen Duc Binh, to reaffirm that the undisputed role of Vietnam's state media is as a tool of ideological control.

He described Western news ideals using terminology such as "poisonous weeds" and "cultural invasion". A frustrated Vietnamese journalist present at the meeting commented afterwards that the news editors had responded by invading local bars en masse.

"These days they can't order us what to do, they can just remind us of what we're supposed to do," he said, cynically.

But the message remains clear: Vietnam's press is Vietnam's press, while press freedom is a relative term, or one invented by capitalists to sell their newspapers.

And what does Hanoi Hannah think of today's propaganda, a generation on from the war that made her name?

"I listen to Voice of America sometimes and the BBC every day," she says. "Any radio is propaganda in some way, whether it's well done or not. What I did? It was wartime." (Reuters)

Living a lie

culty. This man seems to adhere to a strict code of honesty when it comes to other people's lives, while maintaining a conventional marriage for the sake of his own public image. Whether his wife is understanding about his lifestyle is irrelevant. The bargains husbands and wives strike with each other regarding fidelity in general and adulterous partners specifically vary greatly from couple to couple. Perhaps this man's wife is comfortable with his sexual preferences because she has no desire for intimate relations with any man.

The "contract" you and your wife uphold is unique, and only you and she really understand what would constitute a breach of it. Your hesitation about letting your family in on your newfound passion is as understandable as it must be anxiety-producing. Nevertheless, secrecy concerning such a significant side of your life comes with a steep price tag — one which, in time, you might not be prepared to pay. Living a lie around the people closest to you will create the very rupture you are desperately trying to avoid.

Your options, then, are to begin examining how all this affects your inner existence, and your public self. Perhaps you will discover, for example, that this "passion" was a one-time episode, and that you are more comfortable living as you have been up until now. Or maybe the man with whom you have become involved will be replaced by others. Maybe you will find yourself unable to live a secret life — in which case it will be your wife's turn to do a little choosing of her own. Perhaps this scares you more than anything.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie, I am a married man with four children. I have been with most people would call happily married for 18 years. I say that because I have always known something serious was missing, though I was never quite sure what it was.

This summer, my wife and I went away for a vacation without the kids. It was the first time we'd ever done such a thing, just the two of us. And, to tell you the truth, it was quite boring... at first.

Then we hooked up with another couple, and we all hit it off right away. We spent the remainder of the vacation with them. It was the best — and worst — experience of my life.

You see, I found myself developing an attraction to the husband of the other couple, and he to me. I have never been involved in a homosexual relationship before, but now I feel I understand that what has been missing from my marriage is genuine passion. As you can imagine, I am very distressed.

I do not intend revealing any of this to my family (and naturally, I have disguised the details of the story). But the other man is putting pressure on me to "come out of the closet." His wife knows about his other life and he says that he has never hidden what he is. He thinks I shouldn't either.

It's all so new to me. I may be "open-minded" enough to have let this happen, but I am not so open to go public. What are my options here?

Not Gay About Being Openly Gay
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Not-Gay Gay,
Beware of someone who is pressuring you to do something that is causing you so much pain and diffi-

Boxed in

Once upon a time, moving was a breeze. When one is young, single, footloose and fancy free, the process of hopping from dorm room to a rented room in a shared house, to one's own apartment is simple and painless. You just toss your possessions

Experience teaches me that no matter how dedicated you are to settling in, you are always stuck with rogue boxes — ones that stayed unpacked during your last move and get moved again, fully intact. They are usually filled with useless but vaguely sentimental

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

Then, suddenly, those days are over. For me, the turning point came the afternoon I bought a bed and two sofas. While acquiring these items was truly gratifying, the act changed my life profoundly. No longer would I be able to relocate with the ease I had once enjoyed. No longer would everything I owned be able to fit in my car. I was transformed into the owner of things, the possessor of stuff that weighed me down.

The next milestone of materialism was marriage. For some reason, our society believes that single people do not need a decent set of dishes, vases, candlesticks, a Cuisinart and multiple fondue sets. Yet the moment you say "I do," all these objects become vital. Perhaps the motivation behind this avalanche of acquisitions is to make one think twice about divorce.

Who wants to go through dividing all that stuff up?

Remarriage is even worse. You have to deal with a whole new generation of possessions. (One friend of mine who has been married several times owns so many dishes, he could open a restaurant.)

I've had a lot of time to contemplate these issues lately, sitting here in my new home, surrounded by heaps of furniture, mountains

day cards, ID tags from past jobs, old term papers. And clothes you just know you'll find the right occasion to wear again — if you can ever fit into them again, that is.

I know there are folks out there who do not allow this kind of clutter to accumulate. They survey their possessions regularly, and anything they do not use or wear frequently is assiduously given away or mercifully thrown out. The advantage of this approach is having a clean, neat, well-organized home whose residents can actually find what they are looking for.

Much as I envy this condition, I pity these people. Their past has become a black hole. If they don't keep any cartons of ancient, obsolete objects to paw through, what are they going to show their grandchildren when asked what life was like before the invention of the VCR and the Internet?

The people I truly admire are those who are expert at "curating" their memories, museum style. They have carefully cataloged albums and scrapbooks that contain old photographs, souvenirs and other miscellaneous items that can be neatly stacked when moving, or any other time.

To me, this is the perfect compromise between keeping nothing and plowing through boxes of junk.

Other than eat, sleep and work, I've spent the past month in the company of cardboard.

of appliances, and endless stacks of cartons. Friends ask me where I've been lately. I reply, "In my boxes."

Other than eat, sleep and work, I've spent the past month in the company of cardboard. It took two weeks to pack the boxes — at first carefully in an organized fashion, then, when moving day came perilously close, throwing items in, willy-nilly.

But at least packing had a deadline: I had to be finished by the time the movers arrived. On the other end, the unpacking process seems endless. I unpack a box first thing in the morning, and the last thing at night, but I still don't feel I've made much headway. The more boxes I unpack, more new boxes seem to appear out of nowhere. I suspect they are breeding.

In one respect, I am very lucky. My move took me from a midsize apartment to a rather spacious cottage — so I hold out some hope of actually finding a place to put everything, even if I never get around to making those scrapbooks.

If you move from a bigger place to a smaller one, that spells trouble. You are talking about long-term preservation of multiple boxes, about cartons that sit there, staring you in the face, haunting you, teasing you with the knowledge that although you are not exactly sure what lies inside, it is surely something important that could make your life so much easier or more pleasant.

As a matter of fact, there's a cartoon just like that staring at me right now. Excuse me, please — I've got to go empty a box.

book department

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'Frasier' wins fourth year in a row

By BRIAN LOWRY

Frasier and *Law & Order* were named outstanding comedy and drama series, respectively, at the 49th annual Emmy Awards Sunday, marking the second straight year that top-rated NBC has swept those prestigious categories en route to a three-year run as the most-honored network.

Frasier, the comedy starring Kelsey Grammer as a radio psychologist, entered into some extremely select company by securing its fourth consecutive win as best comedy. Only the classic sitcoms *All in the Family*, *Cheers* and *The Dick Van Dyke Show* have earned such recognition four times.

Frasier nabbed just one other award this year, for best directing in a comedy.

Law & Order claimed the night's final Emmy, upsetting such programs as *ER* and *NYPD Blue* after five previous nominations without winning. *Law & Order* won one other award, for cinematography.

Including honors presented a week ago in non-televised ceremonies for technical categories such as editing and sound, NBC totaled two dozen Emmys, more than any other network.

But NBC shared the spotlight at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium with pay-channel Home Box Office, which continues to topple Emmy records for cable services.

Thanks mostly to HBO, cable as a medium amassed 28 Emmys, two more than the record set last year. Cable channels have steadily seen their share of Emmys rise since the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences made them eligible for consideration in 1987, mirroring the manner in which cable and other alternatives continue to siphon away viewers from the better-established networks.

Attracting big-name movie stars to its projects (which often cost three or four times the average amount spent to produce a movie on ABC, CBS or NBC), HBO claimed its fifth consecutive Emmy in the outstanding movie balloting for *Miss Evers' Boys*, which also received the President's Award — a two-year-old category recognizing pro-



Helen Hunt beams over the Emmy expected to go to Ellen DeGeneres; John Lithgow, like Helen, is a repeat award-winner. (Reuters)



grams of social or educational significance.

The movie, which dealt with the Tuskegee experiment, in which black men were allowed to go untreated for syphilis, received five awards in all, including an Emmy for lead actress Alfre Woodard and a pair in editing and cinematography.

Only NBC's *3rd Rock from the Sun* equaled that movie's total Emmy count, having previously won awards for costume design, choreography and sound mixing.

In one of the evening's few surprises, Ellen DeGeneres did not receive an Emmy for her

performance in the much-discussed, widely seen and controversial episode of ABC's *Ellen* in which her character "came out" as a lesbian.

Rather, the Emmy went to Helen Hunt for the second consecutive year as best actress in a comedy for NBC's *Mad About You*. John Lithgow was also a repeat winner for *3rd Rock from the Sun*.

The *Ellen* coming-out episode earned an Emmy in the comedy-writing category, with DeGeneres sharing in that honor, as she came up with the story line. "I accept this on

behalf of all the people — and the teenagers especially — out there who think there's something wrong with them because they're gay," DeGeneres said. "There's nothing wrong with you; don't ever let anybody make you feel ashamed of who you are."

Gillian Anderson of Fox's drama *The X-Files* headed a list of several first-time winners in key acting categories, having been nominated once before for the science-fiction series.

Actresses Kristen Johnson and Kim Delaney each won in their first nominations as supporting

actress in comedy and drama series, respectively, for *3rd Rock from the Sun* and *NYPD Blue*. Hector Elizondo was also a first-time winner for *Chicago Hope*.

There were also the usual suspects, among them Dennis Franz, who won his third Emmy in four years for *NYPD Blue*, while Michael Richards claimed his third supporting actor award for TV's top-rated comedy *Seinfeld*.

NYPD Blue also booked awards in the writing and directing categories. *ER*, last year's best-drama winner, was relegated to three awards: sound mix-

ing, editing, and casting.

HBO's domination of the movie category voting included a first Emmy for Armand Assante in its production of *Gotti*, playing mob boss John Gotti, as well as Woodard's third in her career. The major networks were essentially shut out in the major movie categories, with the fifth installment of PBS's *Prime Suspect* beating out four nominees from ABC, CBS and NBC as outstanding miniseries.

Receiving the Emmy for *Miss Evers' Boys*, actor/producer Laurence Fishburne lauded President Clinton, "who had the decency to make a moral apology" for the Tuskegee experiment, which studied the effects of syphilis on a group of black men, even after a cure for the disease was discovered. In May, the president apologized to the survivors of the experiment, which began in 1932.

In general, however, the night featured little political commentary, with most winners content to thank their families and colleagues.

The television industry, which has come under siege during the last year for its content, used the event to showcase the best television can offer.

In his introductory remarks, host Bryant Gumbel called television "the most powerful medium on the planet." Introducing highlights from last season, he said, "At its best, television has proven to be a remarkable force."

Beyond movies, HBO also scored a surprise Emmy for *Tracey Takes On*, a sketch show starring comic Tracey Ullman, as best variety, music or comedy series, upsetting such programs as *The Tonight Show* and *Late Show with David Letterman*.

The pay channel also took honors for best special with *Chris Rock: Bring the Pain*, earning a second award for comic Rock, who wrote the program.

Bette Midler also claimed the third Emmy of her career for the pay channel's *Bette Midler: Diva Las Vegas*.

The Emmy telecast featured a brief tribute to former NBC executive Brandon Tartikoff, who died earlier this year, at age 48. (LA Times)

THEATER REVIEW

The failure of 'Father'

By NAOMI DOUDAI

With a tangle of torrid family relationships played out behind the scenes at a typical Israeli wedding, this production seemed to promise a serious sociological study of local-style marriage.

Failing that, Michael Gurevitch's hepped-up direction, endless stage stratagems, and breathless manipulation of a stageful of mercurial characters led us to expect at the very least an evening's hilarious entertainment. By the middle of the first act, all such expectations were dashed.

The play, despite endless ear-splitting ranting and raving,

FATHER OF THE GROOM

(Abba the Hahann)

by Yossi Bar-Yosef

stormy exits and entrances, was virtually inanimate. What killed it? The scenario. A preposterous attempt at dramatizing a father-son (for a change, not a mother-daughter) conflict in an attenuated confrontation that failed to coalesce as a play proper was the first fatal flaw.

Second came a series of performances, for the most part so contrived that the most credible and diverting was that of Grandpa Aaron (Nathan Cogan) who understandably dozes off through most of the proceedings. An engaging hint of reality was injected too in minor roles by the chief waiter (Shmuel Edelman), like-wise mostly silent, a Russian accordionist (Ady Weiss), and the perennial gatecrasher (Shabtai Konorti).

The rest of the play's undoing was due to the director's frantic farcification of the shallow characterizations in a vain attempt to save the play. The most blatant instance was his treatment of the title role. He had Itzhak Heskiya, that otherwise fine actor, play the crazed, eccentric father of the groom, with an overextended explosion of paranoid emotion that bordered on the grotesque.

Dehumanized to the same extent was Amikam, the groom, stamped by Nir Erez with an ugly, sarcastic sneer, a fair substitute for the mask that marks the villain in what, under any other name, could be a Victorian melodrama.

DANCE REVIEW

Expectations not met for 'Hamletmachine'

By DORA SOWDEN

Those who remember Amir Kolben's early works, especially those he choreographed as director for the company based in Romema (Jerusalem), have always looked forward to his dance creations, his decisive style of composition and his eloquent dance expression of ideas and emotions. So expectations were high for his latest work, *Hamletmachine*. And indeed, some of Kolben's virtues as a creator of dance were evident in the performance at the Gerard Behar Theater in Jerusalem (September 10). Yet this reviewer must confess that the performance did not seem to rank among his best.

Knowing one's Shakespeare was of little help in following the course of the nonstop performance which last more than an hour. The performance included some characteristic Kolben ensemble dances for the dozen energetic members of the new Kombina company and these were, perhaps, the saving graces, but the "multi-media" did little to give the result a modern thrust.

The male and female members of the troupe were all athletic, agile, and aggressive dancers, who were obviously dedicated but they couldn't quite overcome the outdated resonance of the theme. The strength of the piece was surest in the animated ensemble dancing that featured the individual but never lost the group.

The short video that accompanied the dance performance was almost incomprehensible; the music was a hotchpotch of everything from



The flexibility of the dancers was what kept the audience's attention in Amir Kolben's newest work.

pleasant Purcell to crashing cacophony; paper sheets were torn off large frames on the stage which provided an interesting perspective but added little to the meaning of the performance; and the English and Hebrew dialogue, which might have clarified some of the scenes, was lost as a result of the stage echo.

But it was not these elements that mattered. Ultimately it was not the "machine" that claimed one's attention, but the acrobatic flexibility of the dancers, the glitter and the briefer-than-brief costumes that kept the eyes engaged.

IN TUNE

Joe, let your voice do the talking!

By DAVID BRINN

Joe Cocker hasn't scored a hit in years and his manager Roger Davies has had enough. Davies, who masterminded Tina Turner's stunning comeback more than a decade ago, has geared Cocker's umpteenth album, *Across From Midnight*, directly to the adult contemporary market.

Cocker's strength has always been interpreting other writers' material, but this time, almost all flashes of Cocker's once famous abandon are now smothered in smooth and vapid arrangements.

Cocker's ravaged voice is still a powerfully soulful instrument, but so many of the tracks, probably handpicked by Davies, are soullessly slick pop. They sound like they were written specifically for an unnamed movie soundtrack to be played over the closing credits as the hero and heroine walk into the sunset.

Exceptions are the obligatory reggae song turned into a big production number, this time Bob

ACROSS FROM MIDNIGHT
Joe Cocker
(NMC)

TIGER WALK
Robben Ford
(Red Artz)

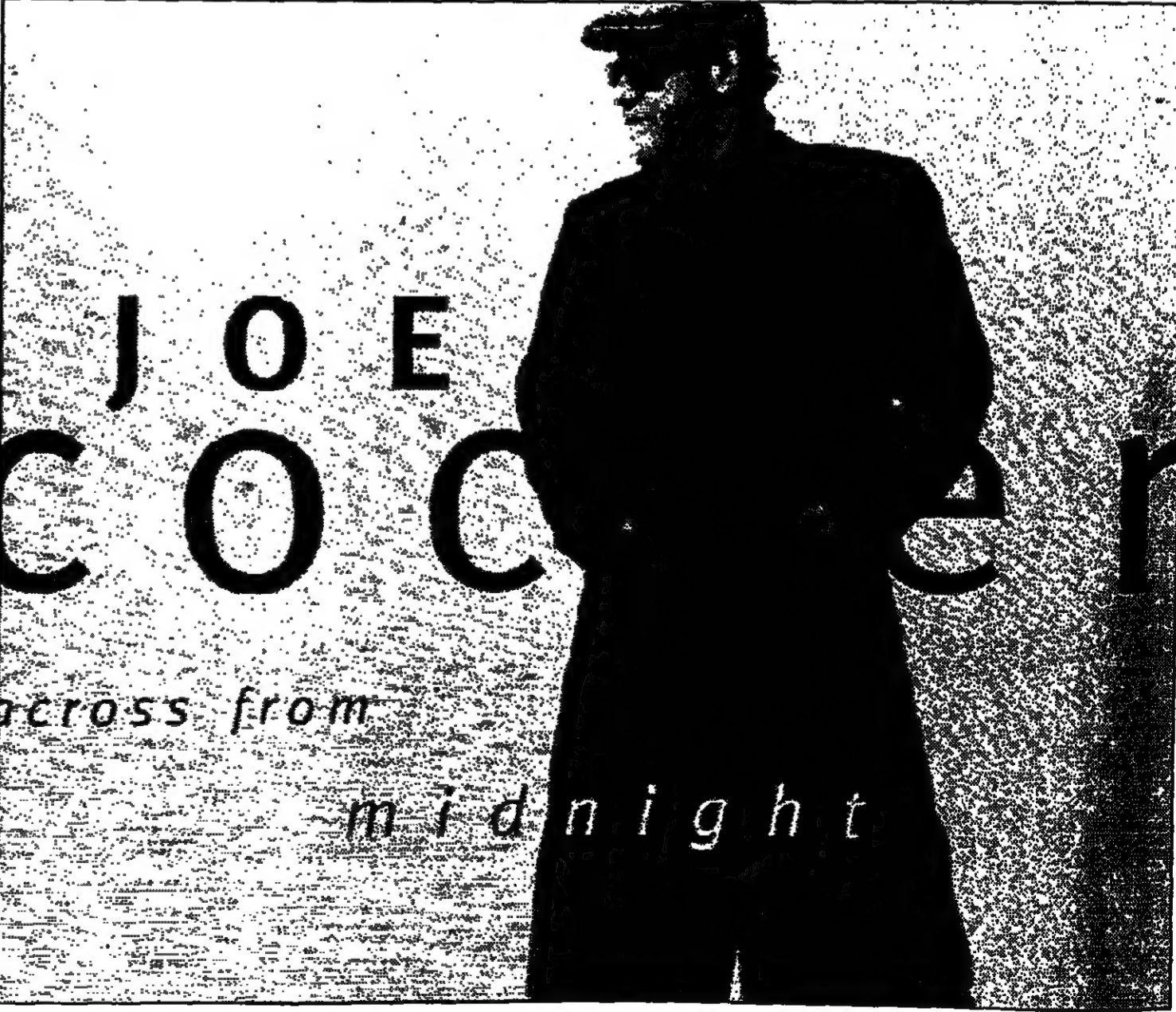
INNER SHADE
Life's Addiction
(NMC)

Marley's "Could You Be Loved," which works surprisingly well with horns and female backup vocals.

Likewise, a version of Squeeze's "Loving You Tonight," which features performances by its writers Glen Tilbrook and Chris Difford, is as playful as the original.

A touching performance on the penultimate "That's the Way Her Love Is" — featuring longtime sideman, pianist Chris Stainton — is reminiscent of "You Are So Beautiful" in its simplicity.

Only on the closing track, a version of the Little Willie John classic, "Need Your Love So Bad," does Cocker let down what hair remains on his head and dig into the blues. Cocker should forget about the pop hits and let his



With some exceptions, Joe Cocker fails to get down and dirty on 'Across from Midnight,' which is mostly slick and soulless.

voice do the talking.

ROBBEN FORD is a much-touted guitar virtuoso from the US who's been favorably compared to Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughn. On the entirely instrumental *Tiger Walk*, Ford proves to be a tasteful ax-man, blending jazz, blues and funk with ease.

He's got a light touch, which he regularly spices up with a wah-wah pedal, but any comparisons to Hendrix or Vaughn are a bit premature.

Unfortunately, his songwriting is light-years behind his fretwork, with most of the tunes used as launching pads for solos. Ford's able backing band often gets into a rhythmic groove which propels his performance, but the tunes go nowhere.

Two songs recorded live in an acoustic format provide a change of pace, but Ford's main problem seems to be coming up with material to suit his talents on the guitar.

LIFE'S ADDICTION'S debut

disc, *Inner Shade*, is an intriguing and at times innovative alternative offering, all in a morose and somber wrapping.

All the tracks are written by Irishman Tim O'Riordan, helped occasionally by vocalist Alison David, whose strong voice is well suited for the pain she wishes to convey on most cuts. Despite a tinny sound, like listening through a car radio, the rhythms are alluring and somewhat hypnotic.

The instrumental production and the mixes are excellent, using

strange sound effects, wailing guitars, insistent drum beats and simple tunes with few notes.

The closing track, "Lightning Strikes," is one of the few instances where David's voice is heard at its fullest, and it is not a disappointment.

The strings, horns and the final choral crescendo make this a highlight of the album.

Far from the mainstream, Life's Addiction proves there are interesting things happening on the fringes.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	18	EVAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#2	4	11	VIA	HITMAN 8
#3	10	3	MEREDITH BROOKS	BLUERING THE EDGES
#4	2	8	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#5	16	31	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#6	3	11	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	KOL MA SHETIRTZI
#7	6	7	ARIK EINSTEIN	LEAN PARHU...
#8	7	3	VIA	LATINO PARTY
#9	17	6	ASTRAL PROJECTION	DANCING GALAXY
#10	5	7	VIA	SUMMER PARTY
#11	12	10	VIA	SUMMER FIESTA 2
#12	13	4	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET BACK
#13	19	5	SHABACK SAMECH	ATIFA SHEL MAMTAK
#14	8	11	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#15	22	4	OST	MEN IN BLACK

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

NEWS

in brief

Two killed on roads

Eli Dahan, 64, of Ness Ziona, was killed yesterday in a collision between his motorcycle and a truck in Holon. In Haifa, a 79-year-old man was killed when he was struck by a taxi while crossing the street. In Ramle, 11 people were lightly to moderately injured in a three-car collision near the Nesher cement plant.

Army probes for negligence in soldier drowning

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine has ordered an investigation into the drowning of Corp. Oren Kehan on the Golan Heights on Sunday, during a tour of Nahal Yehudiya by his unit. Kehan, of Kibbutz Nahshonim, was buried on the kibbutz yesterday.

According to eyewitnesses, Kehan jumped into the water wearing his utility vest and carrying several dozen kilograms of equipment, and immediately sank. It took several hours for rescuers to locate his body. At least one of the rescuers filed a complaint with the field commander about soldiers entering the water carrying such heavy loads.

Immigrants in Karmiel start hunger strike

Some 100 new immigrants, who on Sunday launched a sit-in at the absorption center in Karmiel, saying they could not afford the high rents of apartments in the town, yesterday started a hunger strike, saying they would not eat until affordable housing is found for them. The protesters had spent Sunday night in the center's lobby.

Trips in jeopardy for secondary school pupils

School may be back in session, but for secondary school pupils, there won't be any school trips for the time being. The Secondary Schools Teachers Association is currently refusing to allow its members to go along on the trips because of an ongoing dispute over payment for the hours teachers spend on them.

According to a association spokeswoman, teachers are still not being paid for all the hours actually spent on trips, even though the matter was supposedly worked out during contract talks last year.

Technion scientists call to save ministry

Leading Technion scientists have sent a letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, urging him to prevent the dismantling of the Science Ministry proposed by Science Minister Michael Eitan. Transferring the ministry's responsibilities to a statutory National Council for Research and Development and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, they said, will destroy the integrative approach needed to plan and operate national science policy. Any savings that could result from closing the 90-staff ministry "would be short lived and would eventually result in great harm to scientific research."

Winning cards

In yesterday's first Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 9 of spades, the queen of hearts, the king of diamonds and the 7 of clubs. In the second drawing the winning cards were the queen of spades, the 8 of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the king of clubs.



President Ezer Weizman shakes hands with new Supreme Court Justice Yitzhak Englard at Beit Hanassi yesterday, as Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (right) looks on.

Weizman: Attacks on PM might veer out of control

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday expressed concern over public outbursts against the prime minister.

"Heaven forbid that we should return to the situation we had," before the assassination of the late Yitzhak Rabin, Weizman said. "The lashing out at the prime minister has started again."

Weizman devoted most of his speech to current affairs. Noting that both Supreme Court President Aharon Barak and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who were present at the ceremony, had participated in the process which led to the Camp David accords, Weizman said it was important to maintain the dialogue with the Palestinians.

"We have reached an agreement with the Palestinians," he said. "I

Barak: Court a place for justice, not popularity

This is a difficult period in Israel from a societal point of view and the internal tensions often burst out, sometimes within the boundaries of the law and other times not, Chief Justice Aharon Barak said yesterday.

This atmosphere affects the judiciary, and things which were taken for granted before are sometimes regarded nowadays as political statements, Barak said. This requires caution from the judges, he said, but they should not try to make popular judgments for the sake of pleasing the public.

He was speaking at a swearing-in ceremony for 15 judges yesterday at Beit Hanassi.

Barak also criticized those who felt that "the Supreme Court has to reflect the opposing forces in Israeli society.... There is no greater mistake than that," he said. "The court is not a little Knesset. It is an institution of justice... [a place] for deciding matters of dispute."

Bat Sheva Tsur

told [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat that he has achieved something no other Palestinian leader before succeeded in achieving and that it is worth his while to keep it.

"We have a dialogue with the Palestinians and we should also keep that up because, in the long run, it is our fate to live together with them."

He added that he hoped the

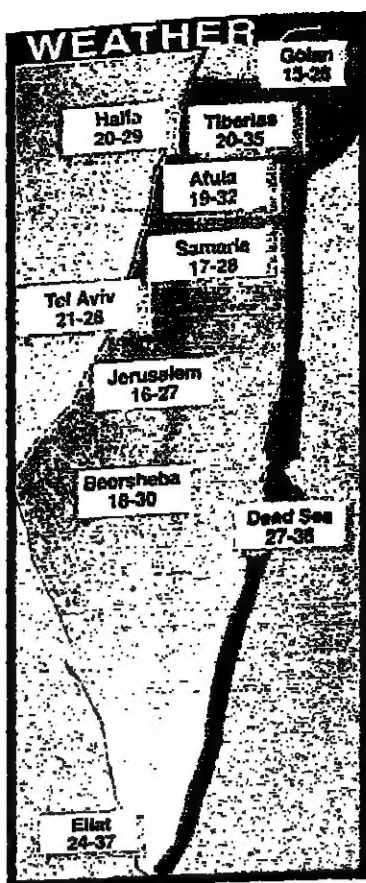
government would find the way to continue with the process.

Turning to the visit of the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Weizman said that while "not all was bright," the visit had had some positive effects.

"I can understand somewhat the mood in the street," he added, "but we must take courage from our achievements in the past and from what we will achieve in the future," saying that the country's youth were a source of strength.

Commenting on the contribution of immigrants, Weizman noted that several of the new judges were immigrants, including Stephen Adler, the new head of the National Labor Court, originally from the US; Northern District Magistrate's Court Judge Ben Pales who was also born in the US; Southern District Traffic Court Judge Dov Pollock, born in Canada, and Northern District Magistrate's Court Judge Ety Vaknin, who is from Morocco.

"This is Zionism and this is the real Israel," Weizman said.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER
Amsterdam	07-15	21-25	10-15	partly cloudy
Berlin	07-15	19-20	10-15	clear
Buenos Aires	22-23	31-32	10-15	cloudy
Chicago	09-15	15-19	10-15	cloudy
Copenhagen	09-15	15-19	10-15	cloudy
Frankfurt	09-15	15-19	10-15	cloudy
Geneva	09-15	15-19	10-15	cloudy
Helsinki	09-15	15-19	10-15	cloudy
Hong Kong	26-29	30-32	10-15	cloudy
Jakarta	26-29	30-32	10-15	cloudy
London	17-19	20-21	10-15	clear
Los Angeles	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Moscow	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Munich	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
New York	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Paris	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Rome	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Stockholm	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Sydney	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Tokyo	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Vienna	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy
Zurich	19-23	23-25	10-15	cloudy

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PM decides not to lay wreath at Kikar Rabin

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has canceled his plan to lay a wreath at the memorial for Yitzhak Rabin at Kikar Rabin today.

Mayor Ronni Milo said yesterday that the wreath-laying was canceled to spare the public the inconvenience resulting from closing Rehov Ibn Gvirol to traffic for several hours. Milo said he spoke to Netanyahu about it, and the two decided to drop the ceremony.

However, municipal sources confirmed that the need to close

Ibn Gvirol was known to the General Security Service and municipal officials when they had planned the visit several days earlier, and did not prevent them from going ahead with the preparations.

But Leah Rabin said Netanyahu decided not to lay the wreath when he heard there would be a demonstration against him.

The Prime Minister's Office said the ceremony was canceled for security reasons.

"I think it would be proper for the prime minister to lay a wreath on the memorial for Yitzhak

Rabin, but in view of the developments and talk of a possible demonstration against him, the street would have to be shut for a number of hours, and we decided the nuisance and inconvenience to the residents was greater than the need to lay the wreath," Milo said.

Rabin called Netanyahu's intention to lay a wreath on her late husband's memorial "hypocrisy and a public relations gimmick." She also accused Netanyahu of leading the incitement which ended in her husband's murder.

"To this day, we haven't heard

from Netanyahu one word of apology or asking forgiveness [for the incitement]," she said. "Not a day goes by without accusations against the previous government for every shortcoming [of the present leaders]."

Persistent rumors said Netanyahu had decided not to lay the wreath because of Rabin's intense objection.

The Likud responded that "it is regrettable that in her statements and conduct, Leah Rabin does not honor herself or the memory of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin."

Appointment of Indyk as assistant secretary of state appears safe

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Despite challenges from some quarters, Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk's nomination as assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs appears safe, State Department and Capitol Hill sources said yesterday.

Indyk will return from Israel today to prepare for Thursday's appearance before the Senate Near East subcommittee. He expects to face questions on the administration's obligation to move the US embassy to Jerusalem, as well as on Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's trip to region, US policy toward Iran, and whether Saudi Arabia has been helpful enough in investigating the Khobar bombing, a State Department official said.

While the American Israel Public Affairs Committee does not endorse candidates, it said that when asked by Congress, it responds that Indyk's hearing represents an opportunity to ask the administration about important policy issues. It has also stated that it is "confident" that Indyk will carry out his new responsibilities.

The Zionist Organization of America, a right-wing group that has opposed his nomination, will be meeting with senators and committee aides up until the hearing. ZOA president Morton Klein said yesterday.

The ZOA is now also upset with Indyk because it says he blocked the attempt by 40 MKs to meet with Albright last week to discuss the status of imprisoned spy Jonathan Pollard.

"I think that's wrong. I wonder if a non-Jewish ambassador would have blocked that meeting. He blocks this meeting, but he lobbied actively for the release of Arab female prisoners who murdered Israelis. I find that repugnant," Klein said.

But Klein concedes that Indyk's nomination will sail through. Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the full Foreign Relations Committee, has stated that Indyk will be pressed on the administration's failure to implement Congress' 1995 legislation calling for the embassy to be moved by 1999. But it is unclear if Helms, who is also a member of the subcommittee, will attend the hearing and question Indyk himself.

According to a senate aide, Indyk is likely to be cushioned by his sharing the desk at the hearing with Wyche Fowler, the former Georgia senator who was nominated as ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Jay Bushinsky adds: At a farewell luncheon here for Indyk tendered by Foreign Minister David Levy, the American envoy said US relations with Israel were based on common values, a presidential commitment and a dedication to Israel's security and survival.

The outgoing ambassador, said that when he is back in Washington he will help Israel. Levy responded in equally buoyant terms, saying that Israel and the US are partners in the "shaping of tomorrow." He described the US as a "reliable catalyst" in the Middle East peace process.

Barak doesn't want Peres leading broad peace movement

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak objects to the idea that MK Shimon Peres, the party's former leader, head an umbrella peace movement, which will unite all such groups in the country.

After consulting with MKs Uzi Baram, Haim Ramon, and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Barak came out against such a move, which he called "damaging and unnecessary."

A proposal that Peres lead a broad peace movement was raised by MK Moshe Shalom after Saturday's demonstration "to save the peace" in Tel Aviv.

Barak expressed concern that this would drag the party back to the era of factions, stressing that this would split up the peace camp and weaken the effort to replace Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his government.

Police continue kidnap probe

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police are investigating whether Bnei Brak resident Ya'acov Schwartz, 63, staged his own abduction last week, after three witnesses claimed to have seen him near his car at Moshav Netiv Ha'asara, after Schwartz said he had been kidnapped.

Schwartz, who disappeared last Wednesday afternoon, was found less than 48 hours later bound and lying on the floor in a

burning abandoned building in Ashkelon.

Schwartz had told police he had picked up two hitchhikers who kidnapped him.

Police are awaiting the results of laboratory tests which could help clarify various conflicting statements.

They noted that the plastic handcuffs which were used to bind Schwartz's hands and feet were loose enough to have allowed him freedom of movement.

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